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CENTRAL ASIAN REVIEW

A quarterly review of current developments
in Soviet Central Asia and
Kazakhstan.

The area covered in this Review embraces the five S.S.R. of Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Kirgizia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. According to Soviet classification "Central Asia" (Srednyaya Aziya) comprises only the first four of these, Kazakhstan being regarded as a separate area.

No. 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH

1953

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CENTRAL ASIAN REVIEW

The object of the Review is to present the Soviet version of internal conditions, progress and setbacks in the Central Asian republics in as comprehensive and readable a form as possible. The belief that such a compilation will be of value is based on the hypothesis that Soviet publications designed for internal consumption, and particularly the Central Asian and Kazakhstan press, contain enough factual information from which, by dint of judicious selection, it is possible to build up a generally speaking accurate, and in some respects detailed picture of current conditions and developments in a little-known area of great potential importance.

Much of the information contained in the various articles has probably been already noticed, recorded, or embodied in official papers. The originality of the Review lies in the attempt which it makes to present in one place the Soviet version of both the positive and negative aspects of a variety of interrelated material and cultural activities in a specific region.

The introduction makes it clear that developments are described "as they are reflected in the Soviet press and publications". All critical comment has therefore been excluded and explanatory comments have been confined to certain words, abbreviations and allusions. To interlard a review of this kind with criticisms and assessments of the accuracy of the matter reported would tend to destroy its objectivity and to turn it into propaganda. The principal defect of Soviet publications as a source of comprehensive intelligence is probably obvious, namely, that they omit any significant mention of a whole range of important subjects such as religion, the armed forces and political dissension. However, it may well be necessary to draw attention in subsequent issues to any serious contradictions or inconsistencies in Soviet reporting.

Some discrimination has been exercised in the quotation of the criticisms and exposures which are an established feature of Soviet life. These seem to be composed of two elements: the stereotyped and vague charges of such "crimes" as formalism, feudalism and complacency; and the specific accusations and complaints levelled at named persons and local organisations and enterprises. The former have only occasionally been mentioned, since they are simply a part of the familiar Marxist "commination"; but the latter have been extensively quoted as relating much more closely to facts.

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INTRODUCTION

The object of the Central Asian Review is to present a coherent picture of current political, social and material developments in the five Soviet Socialist Republics of Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Kirgizia, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan as they are reflected in Soviet publications. The selection of material has been made as objective as possible; and an attempt has been made to report positive achievements and shortcomings in the same proportion and with the same degree of emphasis as they are presented by the Soviet Press and official publications.

The Review is divided into six sections, one for each Republic and one containing articles of a more general scope. Each of the five sections dealing with the Republics contains material arranged under one or more of the following headings: Agriculture, Industry, Communications, Public Works and Political and Cultural Affairs. Subjects are only treated when a sufficient amount of significant material is available. Thus, although each issue is broadly speaking concerned with the quarter under review, material relating to previous quarters will also be included.

In the spelling of place-names the system of transcribing from Russian used in Phillips Record Atlas (1952 Edition) is followed throughout.

THE TURKIC PEOPLES OF THE U.S.S.R.:
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LANGUAGES AND WRITING

A recent issue of "Voprosy Yazykoznaniiya", a review devoted to linguistic matters, contained an article by A.N. Baskakov, the well-known Soviet turcologist, entitled "The Development of the Languages and Writing of the Peoples of the U.S.S.R. (Turkic Languages)".

This article, amounting to about 15,000 words, discusses in great detail the pre- and post-revolutionary history of the Turkic languages used in the U.S.S.R., and their development, particularly in the light of Stalin's pronouncement on languages delivered in June, 1950. The final section deals with lines of future development and problems which still require study and solution.

The following brief résumé merely aims at presenting the chief features of an article too long to be given here in full. Such a résumé must inevitably fall short of reflecting the reasoning and atmosphere peculiar to Russian and Communist treatment of subjects of this kind. These aspects cannot, indeed, be briefly and directly conveyed in terms readily comprehensible to Western readers and could only be fully appreciated in the light of a careful study of the whole article.

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Before the Revolution

The Turkic peoples which formed part of the former Russian Empire are divided by the author into three groups: peoples which were already formed into bourgeois nations, such as the Uzbeks and Kazakhs who already had their own developed national languages; peoples which had not yet reached the stage of national development, although they had their own writing and literary language: and a third group which consisted either of recently formed national entities which had not yet acquired a written language, or of tribal groups not yet formed into such entities and possessing only tribal languages and dialects.

In spite of great differences in their linguistic development, all these peoples can be said to have passed through two periods of evol-

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ution: i) The period during which most of the peoples were formed into independent communities with a universal language, i.e. 14th - 19th centuries, and ii) The period during which nations and a whole series of national languages came into being, i.e. from the second half of the 19th century up to 1917. The first period saw the formation of most of the modern Turkic communities such as Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Kirgiz, Turkmen and Kara-Kalpaks. There was an intensive development of the oral tradition and the heroic epos and there also appeared a rift between the popular spoken language and the literary written languages where they existed. The second period saw the appearance of literary languages as a higher form of popular language and the beginning of national languages. The latter were distinguished from the community languages by their much greater scope and wider social functions which resulted from their use in literature. During this period there began a struggle between the reactionary ruling class which tried to retain the old written languages filled with Arabic and Persian, and the progressive democratic section of the people which strove to blend the literary and popular tongues, to remove the Arabic, Persian and Turkish vocabulary and to approach closer to the Russian language. This latter section was opposed to the Pan-Turanian and Pan-Islamic movements.

The third group of the peoples mentioned by the author consisted of much more primitive tribal groups such as the Altais and the Khakass. These tribal groups were not formed into communities and had no common language but rather a number of tribal tongues and dialects, distinguished by peculiarities of vocabulary and grammatical construction, although they were all of common origin. These tribal languages had no written form apart from a few religious books printed in a character evolved by missionaries.

The Post-Revolutionary Period

The freeing of the Turkic peoples by the Revolution and the vast upheavals which it caused in their economic, political and cultural existence were accompanied by a remarkable development of their languages. Although several new literary languages have been created and also written characters for languages which did not possess them the author emphasises that there was no question of the formation of new languages with a new basic word-stock and a new grammatical structure. The process is rather one of the completion of existing languages and of transforming tribal and community languages into national languages with a rich terminology and vocabulary. By this means, national literatures, theatres and presses are being created.

Baskakov divides the post-revolutionary period of development into two phases: i) The period of the formational of national autonomous units

with their own national languages, i.e. from the beginning of the October Revolution in 1917 up to the emergence of the socialist structure in 1928, and ii) the period of fully developed Socialism and the growth among the peoples of the U.S.S.R. of a culture national in form and socialist in content, i.e. 1928 until the present time. Although the Lenin-Stalin nationalities policy and the formation of national republics created favourable conditions for the development of national literary languages, existing languages underwent no change in their basic structure, this being marked by an exceptional stability of the kind which Stalin has described as inherent in the Russian language. The Turkic languages, being less developed than Russian, underwent more change, but their essential basis has never been touched. The main changes were related to a) the increase in the importance of literary languages as the basic languages of the national republics, the development of writing, the perfecting of scripts and the cementing of the new relationship which had grown up between the popular and literary languages on the one hand and among territorial dialects in any given language on the other; b) the remarkable growth of vocabulary; and c) certain phenomena in the development of phonetic and grammatical structure. All these changes have to be subjected to close and detailed study according to the peculiarities of each established language, to their social history and to the whole apparatus of social and economic relations peculiar to this or that period.

Apart from the more considerable peoples which had been enslaved in the former Russian Empire the nationalities policy has also aided the development of national consciousness, and consequently of language, among the smaller tribes and communities which, under capitalist conditions, were condemned to extinction. As the Soviet state developed, such ethnic groups as the Khakass and Altai were formed into independent autonomous districts. As a result of the recent unification of the Khakass into a single community, the modern Khakass language has become a combination of several dialects which correspond to the tribal groups of which the community is composed and relate historically to the tribal languages. These dialects are now gradually finding a common level and are merging with the literary language. Similar processes of the consolidation of separate tribes into a single community, and later into a socialist nation, and of the formation of a single popular language, have taken place elsewhere, for example, in the Gorno-Altai and Tuva Autonomous Districts. In each case it has been necessary to determine which dialect reflects most fully the regular features of the language as a whole.

Reactionary Opposition

In the early states of post-revolutionary development the principle of basing literary language on the most representative dialects met with considerable reactionary opposition. In Uzbekistan, for example,

there was a tendency to divert the Uzbek language from the general trend of development being followed by the languages of socialist nations by trying to create an artificial literary language based on the old book language. The aim of these reactionary elements was to achieve an inter-dialectical mixture by artificially combining the peculiarities of grammatical structure and vocabulary of all the Uzbek dialects. At the same time, they tried to prevent any considerable introduction of Russian and international words and expressions. These were eliminated and replaced in some languages by Arabic and Persian words unfamiliar to the broad masses, and in others by artificially fabricated "national", but equally unfamiliar and unintelligible, words and expressions. The question of script was also the subject of a violent controversy. The bourgeois nationalists made a determined stand for the old Arabic alphabet which was completely unsuited to Turkic languages. Defeated in this object, they attempted to "reform" the Arabic alphabet with the idea of retaining it by such half-measures. But the new demands resulting from the expansion of economy and culture quickly ousted both the Arabic character and its reformed variants, and all the Turkic languages went over first to the Latin and later to the Russian written character.

Changes in Vocabulary

Baskakov deals in great detail with the whole question of vocabulary which he describes as the element in languages most susceptible to change. Language is not part of the "superstructure" and there is therefore no question of the replacement of old vocabularies, but of the construction of new ones. The change consists in the existing vocabularies being supplemented by new words arising out of changes in social structure, in the development of production, culture, science and the like. The most extensive and productive source from which established languages can enrich their vocabularies is their basic word-stock and their basic roots. An ancillary but none the less important source is the vocabulary of the Russian language. The methods by which new conceptions can be expressed by means of native resources include the following:-

- a) Loan translation,
- b) The extension or limitation of the meaning of existing words,
- c) Word combination and word composition,
- d) Derivatives,
- e) Abbreviations.

These methods are illustrated by a large number of examples taken from

various Turkic languages such as Uzbek, Kara-Kalpak and Kazakh.

Before embarking on a detailed examination of the whole question of the Russian language used as a source of loanwords to supplement existing vocabularies, Baskakov touches on the subject of Arabic and Persian loanwords. Such words, introduced by bourgeois nationalists in order to express new ideas, are now rapidly being replaced by Russian and international terms. This, however, should not be taken to apply to the many Arabic and Persian words which have passed not only into the vocabulary, but also into the basic word-stock of Turkic languages, and are now effectively used side-by-side with native words. These words relate principally to conceptions connected with religion and science, but they also make up a certain part of the social, political and other vocabulary.

Word-borrowing

The influence of the Russian language on the development of the languages of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. began before the Revolution. At that time, however, Russian loanwords related principally to the vocabulary of everyday life or to the terminology of agriculture, administration and, to a certain extent, culture. Since the Revolution, the number of loanwords has enormously increased and now includes a vast range of political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural terms, which form a lexical stock, which is common to all the languages of the Soviet Union since it derives from the same conditions of social development in the post-revolutionary period. These words are entering into the system of languages on a uniform basis and are subject to word-formation and word-change in the same way as indigenous words, that is to say, they conform to the languages' internal laws of development. Thus, although most of the loanwords are nouns, or more rarely, adjectives, they can be made to do duty as other parts of speech by the use of native suffixes and auxiliaries.

Effect of Word-borrowing on Phonetics

Before the Revolution, loanwords taken into the Turkic languages tended to conform to the pronunciation and phonetics of the language which borrowed them. This tendency continued for a few years after the Revolution, but more recently, the orthography of Russian loanwords has begun to conform to that of Russian. This is due to certain subsequent developments: the scale of borrowing of Russian loanwords has greatly increased; among people who were formerly illiterate the tradition of writing has become established; apart from the appearance of a great number of new words and terms in the national languages, new phonemes have also crept in; finally, the importance of Russian as "a second native language" has grown. The adoption of Russian spelling in Russian loanwords is bringing

about a gradual change in the phonetic rules inherent in modern Turkic languages. Languages which have preserved the system of consistent vowel harmony are losing it in the loanwords.

Improvement of Grammatical Structure

Apart from changes in vocabulary and phonetics there is also a noticeable improvement in the grammatical structure of the Turkic languages. This improvement includes such phenomena as the development and complete separation as an independent part of speech of the adjective which, until recently, was only vaguely distinguished on the one hand from the adverb and on the other from substantive; there has been an advance in the construction of compound tenses; and the order of words in sentences has been changed, particularly in the spoken language.

End of Marr's "New Doctrine"

In beginning his final section on the necessity for further research, Baskakov refers briefly to Marr's "new doctrine" which he describes as having "gravely prejudiced the study of national languages and of the questions relating to the theory and practice of linguistics". Stalin's pronouncements have made it possible to put an end to the confusion previously reigning in this field of knowledge and to organise future work on Marxist lines. He has shown, for instance, that the relationships existing between nations and languages before and after the victory of Socialism are quite different. Under capitalist conditions, where cross-breeding of languages takes place, there may be conflict for the supremacy of one or another language, but in the U.S.S.R., after the victory of Socialism, languages have developed in perfect freedom. In the new socialist regime, the attitude of all the peoples of the U.S.S.R. has changed towards Russian which is now recognised by all of them as "a second native language". As one of the most advanced languages in the world it has become the principal (non-native) source of the enrichment and development of the other languages of the Soviet Union.

Subjects for Future Research

Although there has been much planned research relating to the development of Turkic languages, there is still much to be done and certain mistakes have been made. Work on dialects has not always been on the right lines, particularly in the matter of the establishment of the correct dialectical basis. For example, the modern literary Uzbek language, the basis of which is formed by the so-called "urban dialects lacking vowel harmony", is to a certain extent isolated from some of the dialects of the popular language. Again, some Kazakh philologists have wrongly based

their studies on the old division of the Kazakh people into three "hordes", although the facts of the Kazakh language do not bear out such a schematic division of the dialects into horde dialects.

In establishing the standard of usage of a literary language no great cleavage should be allowed to exist between the literary and spoken languages. The borrowing of new words should be avoided where they could be expressed by the native resources of the language. At the same time however, a national language should not be hedged round with artificial barriers which prevent the introduction into the literary language of Russian words widely used in the popular spoken language. Russian occupies a special position as a unifying factor among the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and strong resistance should be put up against bourgeois and nationalist tendencies to avoid borrowing from neighbouring and more highly developed languages, such as Russian, to avoid, in fact, drawing closer to the Russian language. A rational compromise must be struck between the use of native sources and of Russian sources of new vocabulary.

Modification of Alphabets and Orthography

Some important modifications are necessary in the Russian alphabets adopted by most of the languages of the U.S.S.R. The use of the Russian script in Turkic languages had not only contributed to their development, but has been of great assistance in the teaching of the Russian language and in the assimilation of Russian culture. It has provided a uniform basis from which literacy can be achieved simultaneously both in the native languages and in Russian. But the existing Russian-based alphabets require certain changes to make them more precise and more simple. Baskakov then points out a number of inconsistencies and redundancies in the present alphabets. Among these he includes the existing practice of representing certain sounds common to many languages by a different symbol in each.

In dealing with the orthography of Russian loanwords, Baskakov points out that it is not possible to establish general and universal rules for all languages for the spelling of these words. Broadly speaking the principle should be followed of leaving old Russian loanwords in the forms complying with the phonetics and pronunciation of the language, while new words should be written in the Russian orthography. The abolition of established tradition in the writing of loanwords would result in a breakaway from the existing orthography, and would lead to a divergence between the languages of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and the existing spoken popular languages. At the same time there exists another danger - the divergence of the languages of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. from Russian. This would happen if the national orthographies were worked out without taking into account the fact that new sounds as well

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as new words have been borrowed from the Russian language. Such a divergence would prejudice the learning of Russian in non-Russian schools.

In conclusion, Baskakov affirms that the solution of all these problems has been made possible by the guidance and methodological precepts laid down by Stalin.

The Main Turkmen Canal

The All-Union project known as the "Main Turkmen Canal" has been the subject of a number of popular and technical books published in the Soviet Union during the past few years. Details of the popular literature are given in the Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., Geographical Series No. 3, 1952. Two books of a semi-technical kind were published by the Committee for the Construction of Hydro-Electric Stations, Canals and Irrigation Systems during 1952. The most recent popular book appears to be "The Soviet People transform the Desert into a Land of Plenty" by Academician Nalivkin (1953). Articles on various aspects of the project frequently appear in the technical and popular reviews.

The aim of the present article is to describe the current progress on the canal project insofar as it has been reported during the first quarter of 1953 in the press of the two Republics immediately concerned, namely Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The Main Turkmen Canal is now seen as a very considerable project which embraces not only the construction of the canal itself, but a number of allied enterprises. These include the irrigation of adjacent areas, the creation of belts of afforestation, the construction of electric power-stations, some of which are merely temporary and others which are designed to be permanent, and the construction of a road-system following the alignment of the canal. Apart from the building of various installations at the headworks of the canal at Takhia-Tash and New Kazandzhik, the project has involved the creation of new settlements and accommodation to house the workers on the canal.

A number of All-Union, Central Asian and Republican organisations are concerned in the various aspects of the project. Among those mentioned in the press during the period under review are the following:

- a) Gidroproekt responsible for planning and scientific survey and research.
- b) Sredazgidrostoi, the executive body apparently responsible for the constructional work.
- c) Soyuzdorproekt responsible for road building.
- d) Turkmenvodstoi concerned with placing new land under irrigation.

- e) Agrolesproekt responsible for afforestation
- f) Ashkhabadproekt specifically mentioned as having designed the new settlement at Tashauz.

Progress has evidently been considerable and the opening of the Takhia-Tash feeder canal on 1st March, 1953, marks a new phase in the completion of the project. Nevertheless, criticisms of the conduct of various aspects of the project are numerous.

Official Pronouncements

During February, there was a conference of the "Aktiv" of the Canal workers at which 250 delegates were present, including representatives of scientific units operating in the desert. The report on 1952 achievements and on 1953 prospects was read by Eristov, the deputy manager of the Sredazgidrostoi. He announced the achievement of considerable progress in the carrying out of the Canal project. Planned targets of construction and the installation of equipment had been exceeded two-fold. During 1952, over 3 million cubic metres of earth had been excavated 36 thousand square metres of housing handed over to occupiers, and 60 kilometres of motor-roads and 18 kilometres of railway lines and electric transmission lines had been laid. He nevertheless admitted that building costs remained high and that economies planned had not been fully realised. The cost of works construction had only been cut by one per cent instead of an anticipated 9.8 %, and in the construction of houses at Khodzheili and Sultan Uiz Dag costs had even mounted. At times valuable equipment and machinery remained idle as for one reason or another they could not be effectively used. There were some cases of fraudulent conversion of money overpaid for work done, and of exaggerated figures submitted in reports on the extent of operations. In spite of this, progress was being made with the main tasks and the advance into the desert and its reclamation was being continued. Included in the plan for 1953 were a thermal electric-power-station at Takhia-Tash, a suspension cable-way connecting the two banks of the river, a concrete plant and many houses and municipal buildings. Among lesser improvements planned were the better supply of water to railway engines at the Gidrouzel station by means of over-head feeding tanks, and the supply of coal from bunkers. The absence of these facilities has led to a waste of time in the delivery of urgent supplies.

In an interview given at the end of February, Eristov stated that 1953 should see the end of the "preparatory" period in the construction of the Canal and the beginning of excavation work along the main

alignment. The unusually early beginning of spring provided hope of accelerating the work of excavation, and in the first 16 days of February as much excavation had been done as in the whole of January. Eristov mentioned that the Takhia-Tash power-station will come into operation in the fourth quarter of 1953 and that work on the Kazandzhik and Sultan Uiz Dag power plants will be accelerated. The early spring would speed up all building operations, and he exhorted the workers of the Amu Darya shipping services to further efforts in their great task of transporting thousands of tons of building material. Their work would be facilitated by the addition of 12 five hundred-ton metal barges from Kiev which are now being assembled at Takhia-Tash. Eristov announced that work on the Feeder Canal was completed at the end of February. This canal was now filling up with water which enabled the dredgers to move up towards the projected entry to the main canal alignment. Eristov reckoned that the expenditure of water on irrigation, on filling the reservoirs and from evaporation would be about 70% of the total inflow.

During 1953, it is hoped to penetrate the desert to a distance of 160-170 kilometres in the north-east, construction bases being established at Shakh Senem and Zengi Baba. Penetration from the south-west is expected to reach Kurtys Bab. For some time, however, the main bridgeheads will be Takhia-Tash and Kazandzhik.

The Feeder Canal

The completion of the feeder canal on 28th February was made the occasion of a special ceremony held on 1st March to mark the end of the preparatory stage of the whole project. At 11.52 Moscow time, Eristov cut a tape across the triumphal arch at the canal entrance and fifteen scrapers, which had taken up their position on the edge of the main alignment, passed through, the roar of their engines breaking the silence of the desert. Blueprints for the excavation work to be done on the first kilometres of the main canal have been handed over by the Gidroproekt to the Sredazgidrostoi and scrapers, excavators and dredgers will now turn west and start in earnest on their thousand-kilometre march across the Kara Kum Desert. The survey of the first kilometres is completed, but there are serious obstacles to be overcome including, for instance, the crossing of the Soviet Yab irrigation canal which is to be put through a concrete channel. Another difficulty to be surmounted is the crossing of the Daryalyk, the old bed of the Amu Darya river; a railway bridge will also have to be erected across the Tashauz-Khodzheili line.

New means of accelerating the work of excavation include the

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provision by the Minsk works of new dumping wagons for moving excavated material. Arrangements are being made for the electric propulsion of excavators, and mobile workshops and garages are being organized to follow the excavation gangs into the desert.

Takhia-Tash

Considerable activity is reported in the south-western part of Takhia-Tash where work is progressing on the thermal power station. A foundation trench has now been excavated. In order to speed up this project and to supply the site with concrete, a temporary plant has been put up. Equipment for the new power station was already arriving in February and ten wagon loads of boiler parts have been supplied by the Barnaul boiler works. Work is also progressing on an overhead cable to be attached to towers on the banks of the Amu Darya and the foundations for the towers are being laid. They are to be 54 metres high. The cable-way will be 800 metres long and will thus be the longest in the whole Union.

Takhia-Tash transport facilities are being improved and a new airline is now operating between Takhia-Tash and Ashkhabad. The opening of another line between Takhia-Tash and Tashkent is contemplated, and both capitals concerned with the working of the Canal project would thus be connected with the Takhia-Tash bridge-head.

Although no general construction plan for the expansion of Takhia-Tash has so far been approved, the town boundaries are being extended and building is in progress everywhere. Scaffoldings were recently taken down from 50 new houses, and in the new blocks water-mains are being laid on. The road surfaces round the new blocks are being tarred. Activity has also been reported at the Ketmenchi heights, 2 kilometres from the present workers' settlement. Foundations are being laid here for the construction of the first two new blocks of a socialist settlement which is to be built according to a plan provided by the best architects of the Union. Special consideration has been given to local climatic conditions and the extreme summer heat. Not only houses, but all mechanical equipment and machinery working in the open are to be painted white and special ventilation ducts are to be built in the drivers cabins. Additional filters to protect engines from the fine dust of the desert are also to be used.

Advanced bases and new settlements

Work is progressing on the construction of an advanced base at Chapaevsk, 22 kilometres from Leninsk. Progress was at first

hampered by a shortage of water to overcome which it was necessary to clear the bed of the old Shamurat canal which was buried in sand. This Shamurat canal was a branch of the main Shavat canal which brought water to three districts of Tashauz. Severe winter conditions made the task of widening and deepening the Shamurat Canal in order to bring Amu Darya waters to Shakh Senem a formidable task, but a stretch of 30 kilometres has now been cleared. The old fortress of Shakh Senem is 86 kilometres from Chapaevsk and 110 kilometres from the Takhia-Tash promontory and is designed to be used eventually as a secondary advance base. At Chapaevsk there are now 20 houses, a dispensary, a power plant and an aerodrome. In order to facilitate the transportation of supplies to Chapaevsk, a railway loop known as No. 427 has been constructed between Urgench and Khodzheili. By means of this loop building materials and prefabricated houses are being carried across the desert to Chapaevsk.

At the South-Western end of the Canal alignment work is in progress at Greater Kazandzhik which is designed to be the main transshipping centre of the canal when completed. A new settlement is being developed at Bala Ishem well and electric current has already been supplied. One of the Canal branches is to reach the Kara Bogaz Gulf near the small settlements of Bektash and Sartas which are mentioned as places likely to be developed in the future.

Roads

The railway station known as Gidrouzel is to be connected with Takhia-Tash by an automobile and tractor road. This work is in the hands of Soyuzdorproekt, an organisation responsible for road survey and alignment. Roads totalling a length of 60 kilometres have been marked out from Takhia-Tash to various points in the desert. The first stage of the "Great Kara Kum Trunk Road" from Takhia-Tash to Chapaevsk is to follow the canal, not deviating more than 70 to 100 metres from its axis. In fact, two roads are to be built; one is to be a well laid out hard-surface permanent way for motor traffic, and the other a parallel track for temporary use during the period of construction by heavy vehicles such as tractors and trucks carrying building materials. The fact that the surface is saline constitutes a serious difficulty since the Soviet Code of Road Construction forbids or restricts the building of permanent roads on saline soils. A party of road surveyors recently surveyed the new alignment from the Amu Darya river to Chapaevsk and continued their reconnaissance as far as Shakh Senem. In the course of the next two months, this party is expected to reach the Danatinsk Gates, the corridor between the Kopet Dag and the Maly Barkhani in the neighbourhood of Nebit Dag.

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GENERALDesert Reclamation

Desert reclamation involves two operations; the arresting of the movement of "barkhan" sands, and afforestation. Experiments in the new method of preventing sand encroachment have been carried out in the Nebit Dag area. This new method consists of solidifying the surface of the sand by pouring over it a thin layer of bitumen emulsion. It has been found that this layer of emulsion does not impede the growth of plants, which can break through it. An experiment designed to show the superiority of this method over the old system of protective covering screens gave encouraging results. On a hectare of land spread with the bitumen emulsion 200,000 plants broke through, while on a hectare protected with screens only 70,000 survived.

Extensive afforestation has been planned over the whole area. During 1951-1952, the "Agrolesproekt" carried out a general survey of 8,441,000 hectares and a detailed study of afforestation possibilities on 674,000 hectares. It is now proposed to plant a tree belt 100-200 metres wide on both sides of the canal alignment and a belt of 100 metres round water reservoirs. Along the larger irrigation branches of the main canal tree-belts are to be planted to a width of between 30 and 60 metres depending upon the amount of water available. Primary distribution ditches will have belts of 20 metres. Along the external limits of the irrigated zone the tree belt is to be 30 metres wide. Belts of 100 to 400 metres of trees are to be planted along city boundaries.

In order to supervise the work of afforestation, the Forestry Department is to establish centres at Nebit Dag, Tashauz and in Kara-Kalpakia. Considerable difficulties are anticipated in the South-Western end of the Canal zone, but in spite of the importance of the matter, little research has so far been done into the regular movements of sand caused by the winds.

A specific plan for planting in the north-eastern part of the Canal zone involves the preparation of 390,000 hectares for the planting of trees and 108,000 hectares for shrubs. Green belts are to be created around Tashauz, Kunya Urgench, Leninsk, Andreevsk and other places. The object of all these operations is not only to provide protection for the canal works and for irrigated lands, but also to mitigate the severe climatic conditions of the desert and to provide fuel and timber for the settlers on the newly reclaimed desert land.

Electrification

Electrification of the Canal Zone is keeping pace with the main work

of excavation. Last year, power was produced by temporary plants rigged on trains from which high voltage transmission lines carried current to dredgers and other installations. Apart from this there were over 80 small mobile stations in operation. Work on the permanent Takhia-Tash power station is now, however, well in hand and a power plant of equal capacity is being erected at Kazandzhik. Another power station is being erected at Kara Tau in order to speed up the quarrying of building materials. Work on the high voltage transmission line from Takhia-Tash has been begun. A transmission line from Takhia-Tash has been completed to supply current to the brickworks at Khodzheili and another line to Chapaevsk has been surveyed. There has been mention of a project to build a hydro-electric station at Ak Cha Kai, a locality on the main alignment which is specially suitable for this purpose since it is 95 metres below the sea level.

Scientific Research and Survey

Hydrological Expedition No.7 of the "Gidropromekt" recently arrived in the zone to reorganise research into the behaviour of the Amu Darya river. This expedition is also studying the flow of the Tash Sak canal which recently began to behave more like a river. Members of the 31st Expedition of the "Gidropromekt" have also arrived at Takhia-Tash and are busy carrying out a geological survey at the site of the headworks of the future canal. Drilling operations are continuous even in winter, when the ice on the river is one and a half metres thick and enables the drillers to erect their equipment over the riverbed.

Another recent arrival is a group of scientists composed mostly of agricultural experts and members of the Tashkent Expedition. The primary object of this group is to carry out comprehensive surveys on newly irrigated lands in Kara-Kalpakia. The group is to establish a station on 200 hectares of land in the Kegeilinski district where they will study methods of soil drainage in the Amu Darya delta. Another 200 hectares have been allotted to this group in the same district for the setting up of a permanent agricultural research station.

Personnel

There is a serious shortage of technically qualified personnel. Most of the local mechanics are not fully qualified and only recently a number of Diesel trucks arrived for which there was no competent

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personnel. To meet this shortage an organisation has been set up for the mass training of personnel. The results of the training scheme are good and in the first year 500 recruits have been trained as excavator mechanics, Diesel truck drivers and electro-and motor-mechanics. A percentage of the workers at Takhia-Tash are old Volga-Don hands who require no additional training, but in March it is intended to begin raising the qualifications of 2,000 other men including 500 engineers and technical staff workers.

Party and Press Criticism

Great emphasis has been laid by the Party and the Press on the growing responsibilities of all workers in the Canal Zone. The tempo of work is being accelerated, the supply of material increased, roads made fit for the greater volume of traffic and power facilities brought up to requirements. Almost every branch of the project's activities has been subjected to criticism including planning, the selection of personnel, administration, the use of equipment and the proper application of funds.

Organisations responsible for the drafting of new plans have been found lacking in enthusiasm. "Ashkhabadproekt", the designers of a new settlement at Tashauz and, since 1953, of the Kunya Urgench house building project, have so far provided no general plan for the layout of these settlements, and in Tashauz only a few new city blocks have so far been completed. The "Sredazgidrovodkhopok" (Central Asian Cotton Irrigation) is always many months late in supplying builders with drawings. Those for projects which should have been undertaken in 1952 were only delivered in November and December.

At the second Party Conference held in March and attended by canal builders, there were many complaints of a general kind about the selection, training, and allocation of labour. Appointments are often made with little regard to Party affiliation or to the capabilities of candidates. The Political Department was accused of a wrong approach to its work and of failing to give proper attention to fundamental issues. Nepotism is often rife in the filling of posts.

Complaints of defective organisation and administration have ranged over such subjects as the use of mechanical devices, the maintenance of supplies and the supervision of loading and storage. It is claimed that at times less than half of the available bulldozers and cranes are actually used, and that the performance of certain excavator gangs has seriously fallen off. The output of one gang, for instance, fell from

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40,000 cubic metres in November to 30,000 in December, the reason being that the excavators had been served by only five or six rear dump wagons instead of the normal twenty. In some cases excavators are idle because of faulty power connections. Supplies are not properly maintained and in mid-December there was an unexpected shortage of Diesel oil which put many scrapers and bulldozers out of action. There was specific mention of the "criminally negligent manner" in which the unloading and storage of valuable cargoes had been carried out at Khodzheili.

* An attack was recently made on Kalizhnyuk, a highly placed administrator of the project, for the poor standard of discipline which he maintained among his subordinates. This has resulted in neglect of valuable equipment. It was alleged that equipment for the construction of power stations at Sultan Uiz Dag arrived there long ago and that according to plan one power station should have been started by the end of 1952. In fact, however, the work of laying the power-house foundations had only just begun and even this had been done carelessly as no previous analysis had been made of the available building materials. Machinery was left lying in the open and had been damaged and to some extent removed. One case quoted of the misuse of funds was of the expenditure of 100,000 roubles on the cutting of a certain irrigation ditch for which there was no possible use and which was later abandoned.

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Civil Aviation: its use in sowing and crop preservation.

At the September 1952 Party Conference, Niazov, the Party secretary, spoke of the growing importance of civil aviation and referred particularly to the use of aircraft for sowing and crop preservation.

The sowing of saksaul in sandy areas originated in Uzbekistan, but recently it has been more practised in Turkmenistan, and it is on the basis of experience gained there that sowing is now being carried out in the Kyzyl Kum and the Yaz Yavan deserts. This year's sowing is to be done by aircraft fitted with special appliances which were tested during 1952 in the Grand Turkmen Canal zone.

The Press is now advocating the greatly increased use of aircraft in agriculture and a plan is under consideration whereby aircraft should be attached to MTS (Motor Tractor Stations). The storage and accommodation facilities and the meteorological and radio installations already existing at these stations could be used by the aircraft for which aerodrones would, of course, be built. The plan evidently envisages that the control of these combined agricultural-technical centres would be under the MTS and the local authorities, these being better able to advise on peculiar climatic conditions than the central research organisations.

This plan is still in an embryo stage and has not yet been put into operation. It has however been suggested that special courses on "aero-chemical" methods in agriculture should be organized at Uzbek agricultural colleges.

INDUSTRY

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Oil

During 1952, the work of the Andizhan Oil Trust was not on the whole up to its usual standard. In the first half of the year, the Trust fell short of its obligations by thousands of tons of oil. This did not however seem to cause any great anxiety either to the "Sredazneft" or to the Republican Trade Unions Committee, and both these organisations failed to take any practical steps to improve production. No thorough analysis of deficiencies was made, shortcomings were not stigmatized and no "stakhanovite" or advanced methods of work were introduced in order to improve the output. The attitude towards the promotion of socialist competition was moreover largely perfunctory. A report on the work of the Trust revealed that the latent possibilities of improving work at the fields had not been exploited, that full use had not been made of up-to-date equipment and that a generally low level of technology prevailed at the Andizhan, South Alamyshik and Khodzhiabad fields.

Since the beginning of 1953 there has been a marked improvement. In the first ten days of January shipments of oil in excess of the planned output were recorded at Andizhan, Alamyshik and Palvantash. In February the Andizhan and Alamyshik fields exceeded planned production figures and four train-loads of oil left in excess of scheduled departures. This increase in output is partly due to operations undertaken in the repair and utilization of old disused wells. At the Andizhan field, Well No. 105 was specifically mentioned as "resurrected" after having been idle for 1½ years, and in February two other wells were re-conditioned in excess of the plan. This so-called "secondary utilization" of wells is also giving good results at Khodzhiabad and Alamyshik.

Experiments have been made with the pumping of water into oil bearing strata to achieve a higher percentage of extraction from the wells. Previously from 20 to 60% of oil remained unextracted, but by pumping in water under high pressure almost complete extraction has been achieved. In 1953 these experiments are to be carried out at Alamyshik and Khodzhiabad on an industrial scale. Powerful pumping stations are to be established and at Khodzhiabad the sinking of one of fourteen projected water wells has actually been completed.

At South Alamyshik Oil Well No. 380 was put into operation four days ahead of the time-table and production has so far exceeded expectations.

Work is nearing completion on the automatic control of wells in the first Sector of the Alamyshik field. Experiments in this automatic control from a distance of several kilometres are being made and their success would mean that a single despatcher could simultaneously control the electric motors and other equipment regulating the flow and discharge of oil from several wells.

Last year the Palvantash oil field stood out as a brilliant exception among the oil fields of the Andizhan Trust; it produced several thousand tons of high-octane fuel in excess of the plan and cut down production costs by one million roubles. Palvantash has maintained its record this year, particularly in drilling. By the beginning of January 600 metres of new drilling had been carried out on account of 1953 by one gang, while another had succeeded in drilling to a depth of 2,500 metres, a record for "turbobur" drilling in this area. The annual plan has been carried out and costs lowered. Considerable economy has also been achieved through the introduction of the so-called "combined" (kompleksionnyi) method of operations.

Among operations carried out in the Trust oilfields was the so-called acid treatment of hard strata, which when encountered hindered the seepage and free movement of oil. Acid treatment does not seem to be fully effective when oil contains a high percentage of paraffins, resins or asphaltenes. In such cases, recourse is had to "thermo-acid" treatment which increases the flow many times. Thermo-acid treatment has been applied at Alamyshik with the result that Well No. 326 produced 45 times more oil than before. In 1953, thermo-acid treatment in the fields of Andizhanneft is to be increased fivefold by comparison with 1952 and is expected to result in a considerable increase of output.

In order to carry out the 1953 State plan, deep prospecting is to be undertaken on a larger scale. Drilling gangs are going over now to what is termed an intensive application of the latest technique of turbine drilling. In 1953, the use of the Turbobur method will be seven times greater than in 1952. At Khodzhiabad an economy of 200,000 roubles was achieved in a short time by using local loess loams, instead of the costly barytes, as an aid in drilling.

Another technical problem solved is that of the dehydration of oil. Owing to the presence of a high percentage of water at some of the wells, treatment of oil has been found very difficult and in certain cases impossible. The usual method of dehydration is by heating the oil to 40 - 50 degrees and then allowing the water to settle slowly. This method is, however, costly and affects the quality of the oil. A new

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method has now been introduced at the Andizhan fields which consists in separating the oil emulsion by electrical means. Equipment for this process is also to be erected at Palvantash.

Late March reports emphasise the excellent results obtained since January. The production and survey programme for the first quarter of the current year has been achieved, the Alamyshik and Khodzhiabad fields showing the best results.

COMMUNICATIONS

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Railways

In the period between the 10th and 11th Party Congresses, the total of freight loading on the railway increased by 56% and the total of freight carried by 77%. The expansion of the cotton growing industry is likely to result in still further increases and steps to raise freight carrying capacity have thus become necessary. At the 11th Party Congress held in September 1953, Niazov, the Party Secretary, advocated the speeding-up of the turnaround of trucks and the reduction of time spent in loading and unloading. He also insisted on stricter labour discipline and on adherence to the "Technical Regulations for the Working of Railways" which were recently revised and re-issued for general guidance on 15th August, 1952.

At the Congress, Niazov spoke in a general way about the completion of the Angren coal branch-line and of the rebuilding of many stations and tracks. He emphasised the importance of this work, but did not give any details.

Increase of freight capacity

Among practical measures to increase the volume of freight is a plan to utilise to better advantage the haulage capacity of locomotives, and this has now been extended to the whole of Central Asia. Late last year Tashkent Diesel engine-drivers accepted a challenge from the Ursat'yevskaya locomotive depot to haul trains exceeding the prescribed limits by 200-300 tons. This particular competition, however, made a poor start, for after a month of delays, no trains heavier than the average actually left Arys, owing to the reluctance of Arys locomotive-shed workers to form such trains. In this they were supported by the management of the railway, which abstained from encouraging them for a number of what they called "objective" reasons. Matters improved, however, when a Tashkent engine-driver went to Arys, had a train made up weighing 313 tons above the average, and triumphantly brought it to Tashkent two hours ahead of schedule. Trains reaching Kyzyl Tukmachi from Angren have frequently exceeded the average by as much as 1,100 tons. A total of 37 heavy trains were despatched from Angren on the branch line during May, June and July.

Loading and Unloading

Another means of increasing the volume of cotton freight traffic, especially at the height of the season, was prompted by socialist competition and consisted of a move towards the more efficient loading of cotton onto railway trucks. Last year, for instance, the stations at Chinaz, Chirchik, Keles and Kaufmanskaya exceeded prescribed cotton loads, by a total of 6.960 tons of cotton. This meant the release for other services of 592 railway trucks and a saving to ginning mills of two and a half million roubles in transportation charges.

The movement for more efficient and tighter loading was not confined to cotton, but included cotton-seed. Chinaz, Chirchik and Keles stations loaded 2.466 tons of seed above average, thus releasing 162 trucks for transporting agricultural machinery, piece-goods in bales, bricks, etc. From August, 1951, at Kaufmanskaya and Yalangach stations, the loads of bricks on four-axle trucks was increased from 27-33 tons to 42-48 tons. In 1952, 12,300 tons of bricks were loaded in this way, releasing 660 railway trucks for other purposes.

In contrast to these innovations in loading methods, "Uzbekselmach" refused to experiment with the loading of ODN spraying machinery on the pretext that they had no special allowance for additional ropes to secure loads from shifting whilst in transit. At Kuchluk, Chigirik, Pargos and Aranchi stations several hundred tons of raw cotton were loaded monthly at an average of 5.5 tons against the prescribed 7 on two-axle trucks and 12 against 14 tons on four-axle trucks. This resulted in considerable waste of freight space which could have been avoided if efforts had been made firstly, to pack the bales of raw cotton properly, and secondly, to have them efficiently loaded onto the trucks.

In November and December 200 railway trucks were under-loaded at Chigirik and Kuchluk stations by the Tashkent Cotton Trust. In the same two months hundred of railway waggon and trucks were under-loaded by the railway as freights contracted for were not punctually delivered at stations. Many trusts were suffering serious losses by having to pay fines for holding back trucks for periods ten times longer than allowed by regulations, and in the first eleven months of 1952, the Tashkent Textile Combine wasted 370,000 hours and was liable for fines of over three million roubles. Other defaulters were the Cold Storage and Fuel Trusts which took six and ten times longer than the stipulated time to complete loading and unloading operations.

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Other complaints were of poor work on night loading shifts. On the Tashkent section of the railway only 27% of night loadings were made instead of the 50% laid down, and only 21% on unloadings. A number of trusts were reluctant to work at all on Sundays and holidays.

Sidings

The equipment for dealing with freight at railway sidings controlled by certain trusts is inadequate. At the "Uzbekselmach" sidings, for instance, the platforms are not long enough, there is poor lighting and no facilities to deal with bulk liquid freights. Even the tracks on some of the Trusts' sidings are in poor condition, particularly at Kadyrma station where the track is so bad that railway waggons could not be shunted onto their sidings at the proper speed.

Chardzhou-Kungrad Line

Late in 1952, the Press reported progress in the construction of the Chardzhou-Kungrad line as follows:-

The Chardzhou-Urgench section of 400 kilometres

On this much work still remains to be done on buildings, Diesel locomotive sheds, warehouses, etc. 20 station buildings await completion, including those at Urgench, Dargan Ata, Khazarasp, Khanki and Pitnyak.

The Urgench-Takhia-Tash section of 122 kilometres

This section is in restricted operation. Engineers aim at bringing the entire section into line with normal technical requirements in the near future, without interfering in any way with the continuous flow of freight traffic to Takhia-Tash.

Takhia-Tash-Khodzheili section

The laying of the track has been completed, the first train reaching Khodzheili on June 15th. Movement of service trains and of priority freight on this section has been assured.

The Khodzheili-Kungrad section of 80 kilometres

The track is being laid. All earth-work has been mechanised and rails are being laid by cranes operating from railway trucks.

PUBLIC WORKS

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UZBEKISTAN

Urban Development

At the Conference of the Uzbek Communist Party held last September the Secretary of the Uzbek Party, Niazov, mentioned that extensive work had been undertaken in the development and improvement of cities which continued to "grow and prosper". Specific mention was made of Chirchik, Begovat and Almalyk. Reference was also made to Takhia-Tash, a city in which Uzbek, Turkmen and Kara Kalpak interests merge.

According to Niazov, large funds have been set aside for urban improvements in Uzbekistan, but these are not being fully utilised owing to manpower shortages, scarcity of building materials and the failure of responsible party committees to insist on the execution of directives for the speeding up of building activities. Niazov also referred to the poor working of such municipal undertakings as hotels, public baths and laundries.

The following information about various towns in the Republics has been compiled from various press reports.

Tashkent A considerable increase in industrial and domestic building projects is envisaged in the current five-year plan. During the past two years 430 million roubles has been invested for these purposes, an amount which exceeds capital investment for the corresponding period of the fourth five-year plan. It has been mentioned that during this period 42,000 square metres of domestic housing were built.

A four-storey building to accommodate the Uzbek State Institute of Projects is being put up in Navoi street. On completion this will be one of the largest buildings in Tashkent.

A period of twenty days ending on March 10th was set aside for the planting of trees. In all, 85,000 trees, 75,000 shrubs, 400,000 plants to provide live hedges and over 8 million flower plants are to be planted in the current year.

It is evident that the Tashkent waterworks in certain sectors of the city are unable to supply water to fourth-floor flats. This is said to be due to special conditions prevailing in the city.

Only 42% of the plan for capital repairs to many Tashkent buildings was carried out in 1952 and the quality of the work done was poor. The Government allotted 10 million roubles for Tashkent improvements, but so far the tempo of work has been slow. Among delayed projects are the Kibraisky waterworks and the laying of the Badjar, Labzar and Salar "collectors". The construction of a bridge over the Ankhor canal has also been delayed.

There have been many complaints of the city's electric trains not running to schedule and of conductors being rude to passengers. Transit passengers at Tashkent control station complain of lack of amenities.

Other improvements carried out in the autumn of 1952 included repairs to many thousands of square metres of domestic housing, the asphaltting of streets, and the extension of lighting facilities. Repairs to tram lines and trams were attended to, and a new trolley-bus line connecting the Textile Kombinat with the Stalin, October and Kirov suburbs has been laid. The "Kolkhoz Market" area was also enlarged. A new street called the New Moscow Street leading to the Excavator and Electric Cable works was opened. The construction of one-storey houses still predominates and the practice of rushing work through and handing over the houses for occupation while still unfinished persists. A large section of the city is in an insanitary condition. Sanitation regulations are not observed and inspectors are still too lenient in dealing with offenders.

Angren Angren is a typical mining city whose growth is closely linked with the development of coal mining in the Angren valley. During the past five years, production in the Angren coal fields has increased nearly threefold and a further 56% increase is stipulated in the current 5-Year Plan. Coal was first produced here in 1941 since when this large coal mining centre has considerably increased its production and now supplies coal not only to local industries, but to the neighbouring industries of Tadzhikistan and Turkmenistan. According to February reports, Angren has nine schools, eight libraries, three clubs, a mining industrial school and four hospitals. In 1952 five million roubles were spent on public health in order to keep pace with the growth of the mining population. The development of Angren as a city has been somewhat held up since it has not yet been finally decided whether development should remain under the guidance of the Ministry of Fuel as at present. The City has outgrown its purely mining functions and has become an important regional centre with whose development republican, regional and local interests are concerned. It

is thought by some that it should become a republican responsibility and develop as a city administered solely by municipal bodies.

The slow development of communications within the radius of the city is a good example of the delays in expansion. Angren is an extensive city: it takes about 25 minutes to reach the centre of the town from the miners settlement in the suburbs and the railway station is six kilometres from the city itself. The need for transport improvements and the inconvenience experienced by the population were recognized by the Uzbek Council of Ministers in 1951 when it instructed the Ministry of Motor Transport to establish a motor transport base as well as bus and taxi parks. That this decision has not so far been implemented is an illustration of the delays in carrying out government decisions.

The construction of new buildings is being actively pursued, but there is still no general plan for developing the city. Even if there were, Angren has no central authority which could coordinate new construction projects. This deficiency is noticed in the press as a common feature of Central Asian town development and is characteristic of many mushroom cities in the Union. Public buildings are constructed according to plans drawn up by individual trusts without the approval of a central planning board.

Angren is called the "City of Youth" as 60% of its population are young people who have flocked to Angren from various parts of the Union in search of work.

Andizhan Work is proceeding on improving the layout of streets and squares. Lenin Street and the Station Square have been asphalted. There has been improvement in the water supply and gas for lighting and heating is now more extensively used in schools, municipal buildings and private houses. The new gas main was laid only recently, but there is already much talk of making gas available throughout the town.

Yangi-Yul Yangi-Yul is another large centre of the republic created during the Stalin epoch. It has cotton processing, fruit canning, wine producing, clothing, shoe and other factories for the mass production of utility goods. It boasts of a new cinema, of a ten-year normal school and of a theatre with its own native musical comedy repertoire. In the space of two years 300 dwelling houses have been built and in 1952 about a million roubles was spent on general improvements. In the current five-year plan three schools, a number of houses, a clinic for children and a House of the Soviets are to be erected. Waterworks and a sewage system are to be completed within the same period.

Chirchik. Chirchik is now a large industrial city and a leading electro-chemical centre of the republic, it produces nitrogenous fertilizers and equipment for the chemical industries.

At a recent town conference it was alleged that the political atmosphere in the city was not healthy, that responsible party workers failed to provide the necessary guidance for the political education of those eligible for promotion, that they persistently made attempts to stifle constructive criticism and that this had a bad effect on municipal affairs.

There is no comprehensive plan for extending the electric power supply to meet the growing requirements of the city.

Begovat. The principal industries of this busy centre are not alone in the slow execution of state production plans. Municipal activities leave much to be desired and even the municipal hotel is badly run down. Many of its rooms can often not be used because furniture, fittings and even bedding has been lent to private users outside. To improve this state of affairs adequate funds have been allotted, but have been only partially used.

Vannovskaya. The settlement here is growing rapidly as it has to accommodate workers from the oil fields. In the post-war period considerable amenities were introduced, including a club, a library and a creche for the children of working mothers. There are new straight streets with rows of two-storey houses, and in 1953 it is planned to build 3,000 square metres of domestic housing, public baths and also a cultural centre.

Urgench and Dzhizak. The extremely poor condition of the city streets has been frequently referred to, and especially in Urgench, where roads are in a shocking condition. The surface of the road from the station to the Urgench Regional Soviet Building is so bad that in spring and autumn few cars can force their way through without getting stuck in the mud. Pools of stagnant rain water remain in the market and in the Red Square, a state of affairs reflecting adversely on the local Soviet administration. These remarks are also applicable to Dzhizak where road conditions often make the use of motor transport practically impossible. Considerable work has been done at Urgench station. In ten months workers of the 5th Construction Unit have built 27 one- and two-storey houses and two workers' hostels. In the river section of the town a number of municipal buildings have been created, including a communications' centre, shops, public baths and a restaurant. A school building will shortly be completed.

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TADZHIKISTAN

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Collective Farms (Kolkhoz) .

Party and Press comment on the state of collective farming presents a somewhat varied picture. Reports of ambitious planning, new methods, increased area under cultivation, more machinery and better organisation of labour, all resulting in an increase in earnings, are to some extent offset by complaints of inefficiency, waste and obstruction.

Planning and Progress

Since the Seventh Party Congress in 1948, Tadzhikistan has received considerable help in equipment, technical advice and supervision. During the past three years, seven new M.T.S. and five new M.Zh.S. (Mechanized Animal Husbandry Stations) have been opened and there are now a total of fifty M.T.S. in the Republic. There has been a considerable advance in mechanisation and particularly in the use of the 15 H.P. tractor. This additional assistance, and the progress which resulted, caused a wave of optimism and the target for cotton deliveries was raised by 80,000 tons. This target has not in fact been attained. 1949 and 1951 were bad years for cotton growing and it was only possible to maintain the 1948 output. In many districts this set-back was attributed to the low level of Party guidance, to gross errors in the application of agricultural technique, to inefficient publicity and to the general feeling of complacency caused by good results in the past.

New Policies and Methods

Since the war two new policies have been inaugurated which have had an important effect on production. The first of these is that of "consolidation". This involves the amalgamation of two or more kolkhoz estates and the subsequent extension of their land. For example, in 1950 four kolkhoz estates of the Karasu districts were consolidated into the Tehlman kolkhoz. The beneficial effect of this amalgamation was already being felt by 1951 when seasonal field work was completed more quickly than previously and the standard of work was noticeably better. The annual earnings of this new kolkhoz went up by 9 million roubles owing to an increase in the average cotton yield to 36.1 centners

per hectare thus exceeding the estimated target by 5.86 centners. In some cases as many as seven smaller kolkhoz units have been amalgamated with excellent results. The second new policy has resulted from a decision to break up and realign the old permanent irrigation system of canals and ditches. This has involved the filling up and abandonment of obsolete and ineffective canals, and has had the effect of enlarging individual irrigated plots and thus making possible a better use of machinery which could not have been used on the smaller plots. The new system is much easier to maintain especially in respect of soil improvement and desalination. By 1952 the new system had been applied to four-fifths of the cotton fields of Tadzhikistan and resulted in the area under cultivation being extended by two thousand hectares. This was only made possible by the provision of a greatly increased quantity of mechanical equipment of which, however, full use was not being made especially in the Kulyab and Leninabad districts. Failure to implement the new policy by 100% was due partly to opposition by individual owners of holdings, the new system having abolished all old boundaries represented by ditches and canals. There has also been a tendency for Party organisations to disassociate themselves from the new system on the pretext that it was not their affair but that of the Ministry of Irrigation.

New Difficulties

The overall result of these two new policies has been considerable. Their introduction has created a greater number of really large communal estates and there are now about 400 so-called "millionaire" kolkhozes in Tadzhikistan, that is, kolkhozes with an annual output valued at over a million roubles. Consolidation has, however, brought certain difficulties in its train: although the larger kolkhozes are easier to control from the centre and can be better kept in line with immediate State requirements, internal supervision is more difficult where cultivation is scattered over larger areas. In some cases this has resulted in an unbalanced economy. In the Lenin kolkhoz of the Proletarsk region, for example, the cotton area has grown to 2,000 hectares, but pastures are now insufficient to provide for the combined cattle stocks of the amalgamated collective farms. The administration of larger estates requires a higher degree of specialised agricultural knowledge than can be found in the managers of small kolkhoz units. Combinations of the right political training and the necessary knowledge of practical farming are a rarity, and this has resulted in managers being tried out and changed far too often to ensure smooth running. There have been many cases of managers being dismissed or brought to justice for gross infringements of the Statute of the Agricultural Commune.

The extension of kolkhoz cultivation requires an increase in mechanisation and there has been difficulty in finding the necessary technical specialists for this. The performance of mechanical tractor and other mechanical stations has fallen short of requirements. This is especially true of Kurgan Tyube M.T.S. in spite of a decision to increase the effective working of the E 502 and ON 201 excavators to a monthly output of 20,000 cub. metres and of the E 257 excavator to 7,000 cubic metres.

Increased Earnings

The greater incomes now earned by kolkhozes have brought with them the problem of their proper and equitable distribution. In general, incomes are divided into the so-called "indivisible funds" for expansion purposes, and the amount distributed to the workers. A statement of the 1951 earnings of a certain kolkhoz showed 657,672 roubles as spent on mineral fertilizers, 83,705 roubles on building materials, machinery and prevention of agricultural pests, 400,000 roubles on pedigree cattle, poultry etc. A certain sum was also set aside for the training of machine operatives. There has also been a great increase in the earnings of individual kolkhoz workers. A case is quoted of a kolkhoz worker who in 1951 earned 21.8 roubles per workday in cash, plus a bonus of 2.28 kilos of grain. In 1952 the same kolkhoz was paying at the rate of 28 roubles per workday. Thus, a family with 1500 workdays to its credit would receive 42,000 roubles in cash, plus certain other payments in kind, which are not inconsiderable and have also increased during the past few years.

New lands under cultivation

The construction of the Great Gissar-Molotov Canal has resulted in 10,000 hectares of formerly arid land in the Surkhan-Darya district being put under cotton cultivation. Ten years ago the Gissar valley was practically uninhabitable, being little more than a reedy swamp. Some of the new Vakhsh lands have been colonised by farmers from the hilly Faizabad region and there has been a steady increase in production. The history of one kolkhoz shows that in 1948 it was only able to cultivate 50 hectares and with poor results. In 1949 ten hectares were added, but the yield amounted only to 8 centners per hectare. In 1950 another ninety hectares were added with the assistance of M.T.S., and the yeild brought up to 13.8 centners. Earnings at this time amounted to 700,000 roubles. In 1951 the area under cotton had reached 153 hectares, with 50 hectares under jute. 22.8 centners of cotton were collected that year and earnings rose to

1,600,000 roubles, averaging 19 roubles per workday per man. In 1952 it was anticipated that this kolkhoz would raise its cotton yield to 35 centners and its jute yield to 50 centners and that the earnings per workday would average 30 roubles.

Organisation of Labour

The organisation of labour in kolkhozes given up to general farming is evidently greatly inferior to that prevailing on the predominantly cotton kolkhozes. Examples are the estates in the Shulmakh and Garm mountain districts in which labour resources continue to be ineffectively used. In a certain commune in the Shulmakh region, out of 260 kolkhoz workers capable of work only 120 - 130 normally turn up for work in the fields. In some kolkhozes there is a tendency to work "skopom". This means working as a gang with no specific responsibility allotted to individuals. It apparently results in workers devoting all their individual attention to their own allotments while the kolkhoz work is largely relegated to women.

The organisation of labour in the cotton kolkhozes is very much better. The normal unit of organisation is the "brigade" and the brigade foreman is responsible for the proper organisation and distribution of all work among the members of his brigade. He is expected to exploit to the utmost the inherent resources of his particular area and his duties include the maintenance of labour discipline. In these kolkhozes the tendency is to do away altogether with gang work (skopom) and a higher degree of productivity is thus ensured. On one kolkhoz with 460 hectares of cotton under cultivation with an estimated produce of 13,800 centners, the entire task of harvesting was done by ten brigades totalling 483 workers with another 50 held in reserve to be added at the height of the harvesting season. This means that about 85% of the total man-power of the kolkhoz is productively employed. Labour tasks are worked out according to season: from August 26th to September 15th cotton pickers average 30 kilogrammes per day and from September 16th to November 5th 70 kilogrammes. Generally speaking picking is organised according to grade, and those responsible for picking mixed grades have to sort out their pickings after working hours. No cotton is kept in the fields for more than 24 hours and to achieve this kolkhoz carters have to move 1,400 kilogrammes of cotton daily. They make two round trips bringing mineral fertilizers on their return journey.

Inefficiency, Malpractice and Obstruction

Complaints of inefficiency and malpractice are given steady publicity in the Press. Lack of supervision by Party committees is found to be the principal cause of these shortcomings. Faulty accounting and negligence in the checking of cattle stocks are the result not only of inefficiency and inexperience, but also of criminal tendencies on the part of kolkhoz managers. The selection of senior kolkhoz personnel is often on the basis of nepotism, particularly in the Gorno-Badakhshan region. This creates a family atmosphere quite unfavourable to proper communal development. Cultural services are often inadequately organised. One kolkhoz, for instance, has a library of 500 books which are never used. The same kolkhoz has a radio-diffusion station, but no facilities were provided for the extension of the service to houses of individual farmers.

In some districts, Asht for example, publicity for the harvest targets and economy campaigns is highly inefficient. Although the harvest here was good, those responsible for Party discipline were seldom seen in the fields.

Instances of the existence of indifference and slackness can be found in attempts to mislead inspecting officials by the staging of what is known as "Potemkin villages". (Note: this refers to the story of how Marshal Potemkin used to build model villages for the purpose of deceiving Catherine the Great.) This trick takes the form of demonstrating intensive activity along the edge of cotton fields near the road in order to impress inspecting commissions. Determined inspection has revealed that entire fields so arranged have in fact been choked with weeds, not having been attended to for at least three weeks. Even in such districts as Voroshilovabad, Kaganovichabad and Oktyabr where the autumn crops were good, there were also fields where the weeds were higher than the cotton itself.

There have been cases of resistance to the use of machinery. In the Molotovabad area not a single tractor was to be seen in the fields during the month of August, partly because M.T.S. directors in this district held the opinion that tractors should not be used in cotton fields in this month. In many kolkhozes the spraying of cotton by hand is preferred to the use of ODN sprayers, which often remain idle. There is also resistance to the use of such mechanical aids as harvesters and aircraft. For instance, a CXM 48 combine was introduced into a Kulyab kolkhoz. This combine was first used in 1950 and can do the work

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of 22 hand pickers. But before it can be successfully applied the leaves have to be stripped from the plants by chemical spraying from the air. This work is often delayed both by failure to prepare the chemicals properly, and by obstruction. An instance of the latter occurred when the manager of the Tehlman kolkhoz refused to provide local transport for a civil aviation pilot to inspect fields before carrying out spraying.

PUBLIC WORKS

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Urban Development

There are reports of the construction of communal building and domestic housing at a number of towns such as Stalinabad, Leninabad, Kulyab, Yavan, Kuibyshevsk, and Kyzyl Mazar. Buildings to house District Soviets are nearing completion at Stalinabad and Shartuz. A power station has been completed at Yavan.

In spite of evident progress there have been many complaints of the inactivity of the Construction Trust attached to the Council of Ministers. In the course of an eleven-month period in 1952 only 74% of planned construction was carried out in the Republic. Only 7% of the planned domestic housing was handed over by the Trust to occupiers while building under the control of local bodies was only completed to the extent of 4%. The reason for this shortcoming is found to be the acute shortage of labour, and especially of skilled workmen and qualified foremen and technicians. This prevented the full use of available machinery for building purposes. It is thought that if full use had been made of such machinery more women could have been employed on unskilled work than the 23% employed at present. As a result of this unsatisfactory situation it was decided at the end of 1952 to form a new Ministry to supervise the construction of domestic housing.

Stalinabad

In spite of large financial allotments and other facilities little progress has been made with industrial building. The supply of locally produced building materials and electric power to the vital project of the Cotton Combine has been seriously short of requirements. Bricks, cement and other materials have often been of such poor quality that workmen were unable to use them. A foundry at the "Traktorodetal" works, which should have been in operation in 1949, was not completed by 1952 and considerable sums allotted for this project remain unused.

There is evidence of better planning in the construction of domestic housing combined with shop and office space. All two- and three-storey buildings under construction in the centre of the town are now to include ground-floor space for Government post- and savings-offices, workshops, etc. A new covered market and a park in the Opera and Ballet Theatre area are under consideration. During 1953 about 30,000 ornamental plants, shrubs and fruit trees are to be planted. Street lighting is to be provided along an additional fifteen kilometres of roads and streets and thirty new hydrants to supply water for domestic use are to be erected.

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Restrictions against the erection of mud boundary walls and barbed wire fences are to be enforced. In future no one- or two-storey houses are to be constructed along the main streets.

There are various criticisms of the municipal control of amenities. The running of municipal restaurants is strongly attacked. During the past five years, five directors of the organisation responsible for catering and their deputies have come and gone, and for unknown reasons hundreds of workers who knew and were enthusiastic about their work have had to leave the organisation. These frequent changes have greatly lowered catering standards; menus now consist of only a few items and even in summer there are no fresh vegetables.

The municipal authorities are also supposed to supervise a considerable network of small enterprises such as shoemakers, dressmakers and barbers' shops, working on a co-operative basis. Most of these concerns are very inefficiently run and swindling and profiteering are rife. Much of the malpractice is done under cover of the co-operative principle and relying on patronage from above. The dirty state of barbers' shops has been particularly mentioned and prices are said to be three times as high as those stated on the price-list. Other criticisms refer to sanitary conditions in the city, the streets and markets of which are constantly full of rubbish. The paving of streets in the new suburbs has been held up and has not yet been begun in the lower Varzob area (the site for the second Stalinabad hydro-electric plant).

Kurgan Tyube

This city is in the centre of the rich Vakhsh valley. At the 7th Conference of the Tadzhik Communist Party, Kurgan Tyube was earmarked for expansion in line with its expanding industries. During the first half of 1952 the production value of the city's industries was nine million roubles higher than in 1951. In spite of this, the town is still without electric power, the hydro-electric possibilities of the Vakhsh having so far not been utilised. There have been delays in carrying out other building projects. A building to house the Vakhsh Building Materials Combine, started in 1947, has not yet been completed, and a kindergarten has been under construction for the past six years. A shortage which appears to exist in this as well as in other towns in Tadzhikistan is that of repair workshops. There seems to be nowhere where clothes or furniture can be mended.

Leninabad

Progress reported in 1952 included the construction of two Middle Schools,

two cinemas and a mechanised bakery. More streets have been asphalted. Generally speaking, however, both industry and town-planning in this city seem to have fallen behind. The Town Council is criticised as inactive and there have been constant complaints of inadequate public baths and repair facilities.

Sovietabad

This is a new town whose official existence dates from an order of the Presidium of the Tadzhik Republic issued on 12th March, 1953. It is on the site of Ispisar, an old settlement at the Leninabad station which ten years ago was mostly inhabited by railway workers. It has gradually developed into an industrial settlement which now has a wine industry, a cotton-collecting organisation and mechanised stations. These stations are principally used for animal husbandry and for road construction and repair purposes. A further expansion of Sovietabad is envisaged and the town is expected to have a prosperous future.

Shurab

Since the war the output of the Shurab coalfield has increased three-fold, and this has resulted in a considerable expansion of the city. The town is now divided into forty-eight electoral wards as compared with eleven two years ago. During the past two years, twenty-eight blocks of flats and 3,200 square metres of domestic housing have been built, as well as a seventy-five bed hospital, a crèche accommodating 150 children, a stadium and a cinema. Plans are now under consideration for the further expansion of the city before the expiration of the current Five-Year-Plan. There have been some complaints about sanitary conditions and also of the ugliness of the houses which do not conform to any rational plan of city expansion.

Particular emphasis is being laid on the increased prosperity of the Shurab miners and also on their high technical and professional qualifications. There is a growing demand for radio sets, carpets and similar luxuries and more than twenty motor-bicycles are in use in the city as well as hundreds of bicycles. Several miners own "Pobeda" motor-cars. This new purchasing power is partly attributed to the recent distribution of old-age retirement gratuities. One miner is quoted as having collected 4,377roubles after twenty-one years' service.

Regar

Regar is the administrative centre of a cotton producing area in the Gissar valley. It was formerly a settlement and only recently acquired

the status of a town. It has an up-to-date cotton ginning plant and cotton oil-seed mills which were built since the war. During the past two years a number of new buildings have been erected including an hotel, a cinema and a school.

Gorno-Badakhshan (Pamirs)

Reference to this mountainous region are less concerned with municipal affairs than with the advance of animal husbandry and agriculture and measures to make kolkhoz economy more diversified and stable. Nevertheless, there has been a general drive by the Party to raise the political and cultural status of members in these remote parts. An indication of this is that since the 7th Party Conference 710 young people from the area have been sent to Moscow, Leningrad, Tashkent and other cities for professional and political training. It is now claimed that the population of this extensive area is 100% literate and that there is an ample network of primary and seven-year schools as well as a number of boarding schools. There are 130 clubs and "chaikhaneh" reading-rooms and 106 libraries with a stock of over half a million books. In Khorog alone there are two newspapers, one in Russian and another in Tadzhik. Health services have been greatly improved. Whereas before the Revolution the whole area was served by one army doctor at Murgab Post, there is now a network of hospitals with modern equipment. For instance, the Khorog hospital has a cardiograph and ultra-violet ray equipment. A surgical ward has recently been added to the Vanch hospital and one is to be added to the Murgab hospital shortly. Clinical laboratories are also to be opened both in Rushan and Vanch. All of these improvements have been made possible by the large proportion of the regional budget allotted for the advancement of social and cultural amenities. In 1952, not less than 53.4% of the budget was spent on these services. On the other hand, it is admitted that the Kirov Middle School in Khorog, one of the largest in the autonomous Gorno-Badakhshan region, is badly run. The school buildings are dirty, cold and uncomfortable, and children attend lectures in overcoats. None of the thirteen classrooms have been provided with teachers' desks or with stools.

Khorog claims the distinction of being the highest city in the Soviet Union. In spite of being 4,000 kilometres from Moscow, it is a progressive city and only recently 600,000 roubles were set aside for capital repairs to the municipal buildings. A new school and a bakery have recently been built and the regional construction bureau has undertaken to complete the construction of more water-mains, public baths, an agricultural school, an incubator station and of an eight-flat apartment house. The capacity of the existing hydro-electric power plant has recently been raised and the management have promised subscribers at Khorog, Shugnan

and adjacent kolkhoz estates an uninterrupted supply of current during the winter months and a possible extension of the power supply network. The town is brightly lit and the citizens are using electric power for their every day needs.

The Pamir Botanical Gardens play an important part in the life of Khorog and are now busily engaged in preparations for the spring. Six new hothouses have been built for growing cabbages and tomatoes, the irrigation area is being extended and the canal bringing water from the Gunt river enlarged. These gardens contribute to the development of gardening and fruitgrowing over the whole region, and have helped to establish a fruit orchard at Khorog, a mulberry orchard in the Rosht Kala district and an apricot orchard in the Shugnan area. This spring, over 6,000 seedlings of mulberry, peach and apple are being distributed, as well as seeds of locally acclimatised plants of North American and Far Eastern origin. In spite of these achievements the management of the Botanical Gardens is being criticised for not paying more attention to research and the improvement of fodder grass. Animal husbandry is the principal industry of the Pamirs region and the inadequate supply of fodder for the growing needs of the kolkhoz economy can only be overcome by the planned development of mountain pastures.

Murgab. There is a Biological Research Station here which, in collaboration with the Khorog Botanical Gardens, has done much to introduce high-altitude frost-resisting plants. An M.Zh.S. (Mechanised Animal Husbandry Station) was recently opened in Murgab. This is regarded as a remarkable achievement considering that motor vehicles did not reach Murgab until 1931. The scope of the station's work includes the harvesting of hay and the sowing of 100 hectares of virgin land. During 1953 it is intended to sow lucerne and clover. The station also trains tractor drivers and instructors in electrical sheep-shearing.

Culture and Political Training

The cultural needs of Tadzhikistan are catered for by the Academy of Sciences, the University and affiliated institutes, and by middle and elementary schools. Apart from these more or less formal educational bodies an important part is played by the political training organisation of the Communist Party and by Tadzhik literature.

The Academy of Sciences

The Tadzhikistan Academy of Sciences was founded in 1932 as a branch of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Later, it was transformed into a "filiation" of the Soviet Academy with six scientific research institutes, an observatory and several out-stations. The Academy is in the third year of its existence as an independent academic body and the range of its activities in scientific research is now considerable. Those of its geological section, for instance, have since 1932 included the survey of 250 sites of valuable minerals, while at its out-stations new varieties of cotton, fruit trees and lucerne and other fodder grasses have been studied and in some cases introduced. Its botanical section has been active in the acclimatisation of citrus fruits, especially lemons.

Since the Academy's foundation, scientists have published a number of papers and have become well known in the Union for their research work, thus testifying to the cultural advancement of the Tadzhik people as represented by its élite. The planned study of natural conditions in Tadzhikistan has thus been maintained by the collective efforts of an organised body of scientists. Much has been accomplished by the geologists, seismologists, geophysicists, zoologists, etc., connected with the Academy, and systematic weather observation has been organised and recorded in charts. The material collected from all these studies of natural conditions is extensive, but so far there has been no attempt to provide a comprehensive geographical study of Tadzhikistan as a whole. The need for such a study has long been felt, as scientists working on special subjects still have to use as background material information obtained from scattered sources such as encyclopaedia articles, which are often out of date. A recommendation has consequently been made that the Academy, as the principal scientific body of Tadzhikistan, should undertake the task of preparing a monograph on the "Geography of the Tadzhik Republic". Although the Academy has at present no geographical section or qualified personnel competent to handle this work, there are a number of scientists in the republic whose services could be co-opted for this special purpose. The first step should be the organisation of a Tadzhik

section of the Geographical Society of the U.S.S.R. from which the Academy could later draw the necessary personnel.

The departments of Language and Literature and of History are well organized for continuous and sustained research work, but through the very nature of their activities they are exposed to much adverse criticism. In 1953, the department of Language is to prepare for publication an outline of past and present Tadjik literature, a scientific grammar of the Tadjik language and a Tadjik-Russian dictionary. Warning has been given against the pitfalls of "Marxism" in the scientific approach to these subjects.

Scientists of the department of Philosophy have been working this autumn on the translation of Avicenna's "Danishnameh" from Tadjik into Russian and on his geological and mineralogical observations which are to be translated direct from the Arabic.

The archaeological department of the Academy has continued with the excavation of the Kala-i-Bolo fortress, an historical monument dating back to the 5th - 6th centuries. In the opinion of Tadjik scientists, these excavations prove that the aboriginal culture of Central Asia was not submerged by the Arab invasion of the 9th-10th centuries. This event cannot therefore be regarded as a turning point after which the history of the people of Central Asia embarked on a different course. The excavations disclose that the fortress had three storeys, the first and second of which were built in the 5th-6th centuries. The third storey was added after the Arab invasion, but does not contain any new constructional features. It preserves the same architectural character and is built of the same materials as the older parts of the building. This is taken to prove that the architectural standard attained by the indigenous population before the Arab invasion persisted and was not submerged in the invasion.

A weak feature of the work of the Academy is what is considered to be its limited participation in Tadjik economic life, and the inadequate study of the more urgent problems pertaining to the development of agriculture and animal husbandry. There is an absence of creative criticism in discussing the works and activities of fellow academicians at academic sessions and an attitude of self-praise and obsequiousness seems to have prevailed since the Academy's inauguration. As a result, certain departments, including that of geology, have made little progress in examining the results of the initial surveys carried out by joint expeditions.

Tadjik State University

The state university was opened on 1st September, 1948. Following the

normal pattern of Russian universities, work is divided among four faculties, the faculty of History and Philology having an additional department for the study of Oriental languages. Since the foundation of the University the number of students has grown about fourfold, the present number being about one thousand of which about half are made up of Tadzhiks and Uzbeks. Last autumn there were 260 applicants for 225 vacancies, 138 of the applicants being Tadzhiks. During 1953, which is the first graduation year of the university, 160 students will complete their studies in geology, biology, history and languages, and 32 of them have been recommended for post-graduate work and an academic career. Special subjects studied have included spectroscopy and electronics. Studies in the faculty of History and Philology have included the classical and modern periods of Tadzhik literature and the development of the Tadzhik language and culture. Special importance is attached to a specialised translators' section which is designed to train linguists and journalists in the translation into Tadzhik of the Marxist classics, classical and modern Russian writers and representative works of other regional literatures of the Soviet Union and of world literature. The university has produced its first volume of scientific papers and several monographs on different aspects of Tadzhik history. There is a library of over 100,000 volumes.

Among other higher educational bodies on a par with the university are the Tadzhik Agricultural Institute which attracts a considerable percentage of Tadzhik and Uzbek students, the Tadzhik Medical Institute for which 450 applications were registered for 300 vacancies, and the Stalinabad "Shevchenko" Teachers' Training Institute where 362 applications were made for 300 vacancies, 70% of them coming from natives. The Press deplores the fact that the percentage of Tadzhik girls at the Medical and Agricultural Institutes remains small. Steps are being taken to improve this situation.

Middle and Elementary Schools

The success of university education in Tadzhikistan is inevitably dependent upon improvement in the Tadzhik elementary and higher educational system. This system is defective in many respects. There is, for instance, no strict enforcement of the law of universal education, and not all children of school age are registered for this purpose. This is attributed mainly to the poor work of regional party committees who are too lenient in enforcing registration and the proper numbering of houses, without which universal registration of children is difficult. Even in the suburbs of Stalinabad houses were recently discovered which have no street number and whose owners or occupiers keep no registers of inhabitants.

The chief problem, however, is that of the provision of a sufficient

number of qualified teachers, for whom there will be a growing demand in the current Five-Year Plan, owing to the proposed 70% expansion. The quality of teaching must be improved, better text-books provided and new ones introduced for the teaching of language and literature, embodying Stalin's revolutionary principles. The majority of the old text-books have now been revised under the supervision of the Academy.

Discipline is to be more strictly enforced and measures taken to improve the low standard of results at boys' colleges. These include compulsory homework by backward pupils and action to restrict such misdemeanours as smoking and playing truant. The question of "polytechnic" education is to receive more serious attention. So far only the first steps have been taken towards its introduction since a number of responsible educationalists in the republic undervalue its importance and have consequently omitted to bring this home to school councils. The teaching of physics, mathematics, biology and geography is no longer to be merely abstract, but is to include a practical knowledge of the attainments of Soviet science and of mechanical technology. School children are to be taught the practical rudiments of such subjects as electrical engineering and the treatment of timber and metals. To achieve this, school premises will have to be enlarged, and mechanical and laboratory equipment supplied.

Meanwhile in a number of provincial towns considerable shortcomings have been noticed. In the Kulyab district teaching standards in elementary schools are low. Many children, and particularly Tadzhik girls, fail to complete the curriculum and cannot progress beyond the fifth or sixth grades. The number of children not attending school in the Kulyab district is particularly large, the registration of children even in Kulyab itself being inadequately organised. From the same district there have been reports of delays in repairs to schools, of deficient equipment and unqualified teachers who are often not engaged until after the beginning of term. A certain geography master was found to be teaching his class without the aid of a wall-map with the result that his pupils could not point out important places even in the neighbouring republics. When this teacher's own knowledge was tested on a map of the world, it was found that he could not even point out the Scandinavian Peninsula.

Considerable shortcomings persist in the teaching of Russian throughout the republic, particularly in country schools. The object of teaching Russian in national schools is to imbue children with an interest and love of the language of the great Russian people and to teach them its proper spoken and written use. But even after seven years' schooling, children are sometimes unable to differentiate between vowels and consonants; they cannot construe sentences and have little knowledge of Russian orthography and punctuation, and even of pronunciation.

The poor quality of the text-books and the lack of Tadzhik-Russian dictionaries are partly to blame for this state of affairs.

Party and Political Education

Political training, including the propagation of the theme of "Friendship with the great Russian people", is considered to be an essential part of general education. This training is designed to reach all sections of the population not only by means of the courses conducted at political training schools, but also by special lectures directed towards teachers, doctors and agronomists. Achievement in this latter respect falls short of requirements, the lectures being poorly attended.

The Party has grown numerically and in stature: in the past three and a half years it has increased its membership by 2,837 of which number 1,088 are natives and 798 women. Other statistics show that the number of members with completed or partially completed university training has grown by 802 and that of members with a complete or partial middle school education by 3,849. Illiteracy has been virtually eliminated. Since the opening of the political training school of the Central Committee of the Party a total of 491 students have taken the regular course and 239 the shorter course. During 1952, 79 out of 116 graduates were Tadzhiks or Uzbeks and an additional 39 have graduated from the shorter nine-month course.

In spite of the raising of the standard of education among Party members, there has been a good deal of criticism of Party work in general. Plenum and "Aktiv" sessions are often summoned not for business-like discussion, but merely in order to demonstrate the Party strength and to give formal approval to decisions already taken beforehand. The discussions themselves are often crude and uncritical. Party work among women leaves much to be desired and insufficient attention has been paid to the small number of girls attending the University. The fact has been overlooked that in practice many Tadzhik and Uzbek girls do not reach the standard of graduation for the simple reason that they marry very young, often under the stipulated age, and are thus withdrawn from school attendance. In cases where women have been promoted to responsible Party posts, they have not been given proper assistance in the fulfilment of their duties. This is an indication of the survival of the old feudal attitude towards women.

Other services which have been made the subject of criticism are broadcasting and libraries. For technical reasons it is admittedly difficult to maintain a high standard of transmission, but the quality of local broadcasts is not high and does not satisfy the growing cultural requirements of the population. Last autumn the Stalinabad council of

workers' deputies made an attack on the inadequacy of the library service. Little publicity has been done to aid the circulation of the greatly increased stocks of serious literature and local councils do not exercise enough supervision over library routine. One of the best run libraries, the children's library in Stalinabad, was recently closed as the building was required for other purposes.

Literature

Articles in the Press on literary subjects lay particular stress on two themes: the need to regard the Tadjik language and its literature as original rather than as a shadow of Persian literature; and the importance of regarding the blessings of creative labour as a more appropriate subject than descriptions of out-of-date conditions.

In developing the theme of the original and indigenous character of Tadjik literature statements have been made that Firdausi and Saadi should not be regarded as Persian poets, but as early representatives of the Tadjik tradition, and that the Avesta was a Central Asian and not a Western Iranian creation. Similarly, Rudaki, who is buried in the Pendzhikent district, was not merely a Persian court poet, but the forerunner and creator of classical Tadjik poetry. Mirzazade, a professor of literature at the Teachers' Institute, was recently reprimanded for including in school programmes and books extracts from the work of Adzhiz (Note: the takhallus or pen-name of Said Akhmadkhodzha Sidiki). This writer is now considered to be an early exponent of Pan-Islam and Pan-Turanianism. The fact that he was until recently acclaimed as a progressive influence in the so-called "enlightenment" period of the Tadjik is now deplored.

Recently written plays have had no success with Tadjik audiences and have had to be withdrawn. The Government has offered cash prizes for outstanding dramatic works, but so far without results. Essays on literary criticism are mostly concerned with pre-Revolutionary literature and their authors show no inclination to discuss modern literary works.

Despite these shortcomings, however, there has been some improvement, and hard work, self-education and a greater attention to Soviet conditions are helping Tadjik writers to see much that is good in life and to typify the characteristics of representatives of the new era. Sadreddin Aini, the originator of modern Soviet Tadjik literature, has now completed the third volume of his memoirs and is continuing this work. Tursunzade has recently written a number of poems in a patriotic vein and is printing a selection of them on Soviet Tadjikistan in "Sharki Surkh", the literary Tadjik magazine. Ikrami has finished his short novel

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"Three Sisters", Dzhalil is writing a book about Shurab coalminers, and Ulugzade is rewriting his novel about life in the Vakhsh valley. The works of the young poet Shukhuhi are also favourably commented upon as they deal not only with local themes but with events of all-Union and international significance.

The Tadzhik language is understood in other parts of Asia and progressive circles in Pakistan and India show considerable interest in modern Tadzhik writers. A number of letters come regularly from these countries especially about the poems of Mirza Tursunzade.

There has been criticism of Ikrami for a recent essay on his impressions of a journey to Kulyab, the object of which was to collect material for a novel on the life of the new colonists. It is alleged that Ikrami has failed to pay sufficient attention to a number of serious problems arising in this district, and has not explained why the Party and Government found it expedient to transplant inhabitants of the mountains to a valley region. From his brief notes, it can be deduced that the landscape is lovely and the roads bad, but this is not enough. The author describes the colonists as people who migrated of their own free-will, and their migration as a spontaneous uncontrolled movement. This is incorrect. He gives no indication of the great efforts made by Party and Government officials in organising and controlling this migration and in creating for the settlers conditions in which they can live a happy and prosperous life. In the same context he might also have described the help rendered to the Tadzhiks by the great Russian people.

AGRICULTURE

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KIRGIZIA

KIRGIZIA

Cotton

Cotton growing is a comparatively new feature of Kirgizia's economy, but although confined to a limited area, it has considerable and growing export value. Since the Revolution there has been a determined drive towards expansion and this has resulted not only in increased production, but also in improved quality of the fibre due to a selection of higher grades of seed. It has been stated that the area of 21,600 hectares under cultivation in 1913 has now been more than doubled.

The various aspects of cultivation and harvesting receive great attention in the press. The Republic is being constantly exhorted to increase its cotton output, and thereby contribute to the prosperity of the whole Union and pay for the valuable technical equipment provided by Union centres.

The general means advocated by which a higher output can be achieved are the fostering of friendship and co-operation between men of science and cultivators of the soil, and the prompt and proper organisation of planting, cultivation, irrigation and harvesting. Among the practical measures taken has been the creation of the Kirgiz "General Cotton Experimental Station" situated on the Karasu trunk road, 8 kilometres from Osh. This station gives advice on many technical subjects designed to foster the extension of cotton cultivation. An example of this advice was that recently publicised in interviews and articles on the subject of the pruning of cotton (chekanka) as a means of raising yields. It was maintained that pruning carried out three times during the period of vegetation would improve the yield per hectare by 3 - 5 centners. The station has also been active in the selection of earlier ripening cotton varieties with larger pods and more resistance to climatic changes.

The expansion of cotton cultivation and the higher yields per hectare are part of a general advance in agriculture said to be due to the supply of more and better mechanical equipment to kolkhoz and sovkhoz

estates. By comparison with 1951, the area under industrial crops has grown by 6%, of which 4% are cotton; and the level of the cotton output by comparison with 1939 has grown by 26.8%. The supply of equipment to M.T. stations has been improved with the result that, since 1952, over two thirds of the main field operations on kolkhoz estates and over 90% on sovkhos lands have been done by machinery.

Kolkhoz achievements

A textbook published in 1951 refers to the achievements of the "Kyzyl Shark" kolkhoz which produced an average of 33.14 centners of cotton from an area of 280 hectares, and of the "Kalinin" kolkhoz which attained an average of 27.2 centners from an area of 400 hectares. But these achievements are now out of date and have been superseded by a "35 centner" record by a brigade, and a "45-50 centner" yield by a lower field unit (zveno) from a smaller area. The whole Osh region averaged 23 centners and Dzhalsalabad 22 centners, 26-7 centners having been set as a target by the 19th All-Union Moscow Conference of 1952.

The following details of the achievements of kolkhoz estates are quoted from the press :-

In 1952, the Karl Marx kolkhoz, thanks mainly to Socialist Competition drives, raised an average of 31 centners per hectare of cotton from 715 hectares, and its total revenues from all sources, but mostly cotton, exceeded ten million roubles. The financial position of the kolkhoz is evidently strong since it has accumulated at the State bank over three millions of "indivisible" funds. The "Karl Marx" is a well-managed kolkhoz which has made good progress in the change over to the new irrigation system. There are now only 200 hectares to be replanned for irrigation on the new basis. This involved the filling in of six kilometres of ditches, the levelling of one and a half kilometres of old roads, the excavation of substitute ditches and the transplanting of 300 mulberry trees. Supplies of piece goods, vegetable oils, tea etc., acquired on the barter basis against cotton deliveries have been fully replenished. The gross earnings of families at this kolkhoz are considerable and continue to grow. A certain family, for instance, which in 1951 received as payment for work done during the year 3,520 kilos of wheat and 25,000 roubles in cash, last year received 4,800 kilos of wheat and 30,000 roubles in cash.

The Malenkov kolkhoz, one of the largest in the Osh region, has

raised an average of 27 centners from 800 hectares, while one of the brigades reached a 32 centner record. Against its 1952 cotton deliveries this kolkhoz received 1,530 tons of wheat, 43 tons of oilcake, 8½ tons of vegetable oils, 84,000 metres of piece goods, 11 tons of cotton-wool and half a ton of tea.

The Kyzyl Shark kolkhoz of the Karasu district raised an average of 36 centners from 900 hectares and the Kalinin kolkhoz (Osh) an average of 31.1 centners from 1,500 hectares.

In the Suzak district all the fifteen cotton kolkhoz have increased their revenues twofold since 1950. They have set aside as indivisible funds eleven million roubles, and during the past two years have raised their average yield per hectare by eleven centners and their area under cultivation by 2,000 hectares. Of individual kolkhozes in this area the Kirov estate has attained an average yield of 36 centners and a revenue of nine million. Pay cheques for one workday at this kolkhoz have been exceeding ten roubles and three kilos of bread in kind. The Stalin, Lenin, Voroshilov kolkhozes of Suzak have also had an annual revenue of over eight million roubles.

The range of yields per hectare is not of course uniform but depends on climatic and soil conditions and on man-power. The highest record was that achieved by a "brigade" of the Molotov kolkhoz of the Aravan district - 54 centners from one hectare. In the Chu valley, on the other hand, 21 centners on 9 hectares was considered good in view of conditions prevailing there.

General Criticisms

There has been some general criticism of cotton growing methods and practices. The Dzhalsalabad Party Conference held in the autumn of 1952 disclosed, for instance, that the Dzhalsalabad region had not fulfilled its cotton producing quota for the last five years, and that local party organisations had so far failed to induce kolkhoz cotton growers to take a more active part in the struggle for higher cotton yields.

In certain districts (e.g. Leninsk) the area under cotton is expanding from year to year while the kolkhoz population has remained stationary thus causing a shortage of manpower. To meet this deficiency the transfer is recommended to such districts of population from the hilly regions of the Dzhalsalabad Oblast where there is a

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surplus of manpower uneconomically employed.

Psychological factors retarding further progress include widespread complacency among kolkhoz executives with results achieved. This leads to a slowing down of work in the cotton fields and is most harmful to the further extension and intensification of cotton cultivation.

Repairs to mechanical equipment, storage and drying installations are often delayed and are at times made too late in the season to be of immediate use. Sufficient mineral fertilizers are not available in some districts, and there are delays in repairing roads and bridges which hinder the speedy collection of the harvest and normal deliveries to railheads.

Failure of the 1952 Harvest

In spite of the achievements of individual farms, the 1952 harvest was unsatisfactory. Harvesting yields were below those of 1951, and cotton production quotas in the three cotton producing regions were carried out only to the extent of 88.9% (Osh 89.5, Dzhalsalabad 88.75 and Frunze 89.1). Only four of 23 cotton growing districts fulfilled the plan, namely, Aravan, Leninsk, Karasu and Kaganovich.

Many specialists and kolkhoz managers hold the view that last year's harvest would not have been deficient in quantity but for a spell of bad weather which interfered with full collection. While expression of such misleading notions is considered harmful, official recommendations have been issued for the improvement in the working of cotton drying field plants. One hundred mechanical plants are to be in readiness for the 1953 harvest - 53 in Osh, 45 in Dzhalsalabad and 2 in Frunze.

The main reasons for the failure of cotton deliveries last season given in the January-March press are as follows :-

The central authorities are inclined to disregard local conditions in their approach to practical problems of cotton cultivation. There has been a tendency to accept average statistics as satisfactory evidence of accomplishments and progress, and this has prevented steps being taken to examine more carefully the low attainments of backward kolkhozes with a view to improving their yields. A lack of proper control in implementing decisions has led to sowings not being completed within the time limit of 8 - 10 days and to M.T. stations not carrying out their contract obligations towards kolkhoz estates.

Anti-mechanisation trends and a reluctance to make full use of machinery have at times been evinced by kolkhoz managers, and there have been numerous cases of direct opposition to the use of cotton harvesters. This attitude has not been confined to local authorities, but is also displayed by members of district and regional party organisations.

Measures for the Future

In future, areas of cotton cultivation in the Republic are to be divided into four zones, each of which is to be given special consideration and guidance, namely, the valley zone, the foothills, the mountain and the northern zones. Instructions on sowing dates and other matters relating to cultivation are to be given with strict regard to the climatic, soil and manpower conditions prevailing in each zone.

As regards the use of manpower, working conditions in the fields are to be improved and "brigade" units organized on a better and more permanent basis. Absenteeism will not be tolerated; in the 1952 campaign too many able-bodied kolkhoz workers took little or no part in work in the fields, often shirking the prescribed hours of work by starting late in the day. A closer check is to be kept of work done, and the rules for the advance of cash and food supplies insisted upon.

The lessons derived from the 1952 campaign are to be applied in the first instance to spring sowing. There are to be larger deliveries to the fields of fertilizers, and 400,000 tons of local manures and about 25,000 tons of mineral fertilizers are to be put down in the fields in preparation for sowing. The available machinery is to be distributed with a view to completing sowing in 8 to 10 days, and, in addition to machinery, 300 horse-drawn ploughs and 2100 harrows are to be supplied to kolkhoz estates. Tractors are to be distributed among Osh and Dzhalsalabad stations this spring as follows:

<u>Types of Tractor</u>	<u>M.T.Stations, Osh</u>	<u>M.T.Stations, Dzhalsalabad</u>
C-80	36	19
DT-54	122	106
KD-35	6	4
STZ NATI	13	40

Kolkhoz Harvesting Methods

A detailed interview given by the manager of the Andreev kolkhoz provided much general information on harvesting methods. The Andreev kolkhoz has 760 hectares under cotton cultivation and in 1952 its deliveries of cotton to the State were to yield a gross ten and a half million roubles of which two million roubles were to be placed to the credit of an indivisible reserve fund. The harvest programme of this kolkhoz was based on the assumption that the time for the opening up of the pods would be about August 20th. Harvesting was timed to begin on September 5th and to be completed by November 7th, during which period a total of 2,590 tons of cotton was to be collected - 40% in September, 58% in October and 2% in November. To carry out this task 719 kolkhoz workers were detailed as follows: 44 to operate the harvesting machines, 550 as pickers, 30 as carriers, 50 for drying and packing, 10 for delivery work to the collecting centres ("khirmany"), 5 for unloading, 20 as creche attendants, and 10 as foremen.

The norm of picking for the season was fixed at 4,000 kilogrammes. Apart from handpickers, 9 cotton-picking machines were to be used, their success depending largely on the thorough preliminary destruction of the cotton leaves for which purpose 19 tons of calcium cyanamide and sodium silicate was to be sprayed by two tractor-drawn spraying machines of the ODN type. Each cotton picking machine was expected to collect 90 tons per season. A total of 810 tons of the anticipated harvest of 2,590 tons was thus to be picked mechanically.

The work of each individual kolkhoz cotton picker was accounted for and checked either at the central khirman, or at the smaller collecting centres none of which were located more than 250 to 300 metres from the actual site of picking.

To facilitate the work of checking, each picker was provided with a special identity card. Cotton pickers were issued with two aprons each. These aprons had three pockets into which the cotton was dropped according to its grade. Living conditions during the harvesting period were by no means easy, since, at the commencement of the picking season, the entire working population was brought from their homes to the cotton fields where temporary accommodation had to be arranged. Working hours were long and work continued "as long as it was light", with an interval of half an hour for lunch and an hour for dinner.

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For the transportation of cotton from the fields the Andreev kolkhoz had two motor cars and 30 carts all of which could carry up to 19 tons of cotton in a single trip. From the field to the drying plants the cars made four trips a day and the carts three. The plants could only accommodate 40 tons at one time.

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Coal

The coal industry of Southern Kirgizia is of considerable importance to the economy of Soviet Central Asia since its coal fields contain roughly 50% of the entire coal deposits of that area. Before the war, production of coal in these fields had reached about one million tons annually, a considerable improvement on the 1913 output of 144,000 tons, and even on the 1915 output of 188,000 tons. It can thus be said that the rapid development of coal mining in Kirgizia coincides with the Lenin-Stalin epoch and must be regarded as a post-revolution development. During the revolution itself, most of the Kirgiz mines fell into decay and the Kok-Yangak field was actually destroyed in the course of the Basmachi movement.

Kyzyl-Kiya came into prominence again in 1925. The restarting of Kok-Yangak dates from 1930. Tashkumyr came into being in 1935 and is thus the most recent addition. The one million tons produced before the war did not, of course, cover all the coal requirements of the Central Asian Republics, and coal has still to be imported from the Kuzbas. The output of coal in the Republic is however growing, and had improved by 16.5% in the period between the 5th and 6th Party Conferences. In 1951, however, seven mines had not carried out the State plan since, according to the Secretary of the Kirgiz Communist Party, neither labour cadres nor mechanised equipment had been utilised to their full capacity. By August, 1952, the annual plan had only been carried out to the extent of 57%, and this deficit could not be rectified during the remaining five months of the year. The post-war plan visualised the earmarking for industrial development of 20 coal producing areas with a total reserve of 5½ million tons and the actual opening of mines with an estimated output of 825,000. This would have raised the 1950 total to 1,600,000 tons, which was not in fact attained.

Recapitulating recent successes, the manager of the "Sredazugol" Trust stated that in any case achievements had been considerable as the entire production of 1913 constituted the present output of a single mine, and the output in 1951 had improved upon that of 1940 by one third. He reported improvement in 1952 and added that the miners had promised to extract 40,000 tons of coal over and above planned output in 1953. Apart from the individual efforts of miners, improvement is to be achieved by the introduction of the progressive "cyclic" method of mining, first introduced in the Donbas, and also by working strictly to time schedules (one cycle in 24 hours).

The Kyzyl-Kiya Field

This lies to the south-west of Osh on a branch line 48 kilometres from Skobelev, on the Fergana valley railway circuit. This branch line is broad gauge as far as Kyzyl-Kiya station, the remaining three kilometres to the mines being narrow gauge. The Kyzyl-Kiya Trust manages the coal-fields within a radius of about 40 kilometres from this terminus. They produce brown coal which is considered best suited for briquetting, since when brought to the surface it is liable to weathering and self-ignition. These mines are deep-sunk, are mechanised and have electric locomotives for moving the coal. In 1951, the Kyzyl-Kiya field improved on its 1950 output by 9.5% and, over a period of eight months in 1952, by 15.5%. Electric locomotives have now effectively replaced other means of haulage and in mines "4" and "4 bis" the "cyclic" method has been introduced. It is freely admitted, however, that of five mines controlled by the Trust, two have failed in their contracted deliveries and owe the State many thousands of tons of coal. New mechanical equipment has not been fully utilised and there have been delays in getting some of the appliances working. There are also shortcomings in the proper use of manpower and not a few miners habitually fail in the fulfilment of their daily norms. Mines No. 6 and "Komsomolskaya" owe the State large quantities of coal.

A report of 1st January confirmed that on 28th December the Kyzyl-Kiya Trust completed its annual production quota which had risen by 7.8%, labour productivity at the field having increased by 10%. The "Dzhal" mine of the Trust held the lead and by January 1st had produced 14,000 tons of coal on account of the 1953 plan, "Dzhal" miners having undertaken to maintain production at a 120% level. The "Dzhal", No. 6 and "Komsomolskaya" mines had completed their production quota in the second year of the Five-Year Plan. According to statements made at the Kyzyl-Kiya Party Conference in January, the position at "4" and "4 bis" pits is less good. The party "aktiv" at these pits comprises seventy men, but has failed to step up production, even its own members not having fulfilled their production quotas. Socialist competition drives at these two mines are perfunctory, competition results are not properly checked and the valuable experience and example of Union miners are not followed. Local miners are moved from one job to another too often, and there are repeated cases of absenteeism and breaches of labour discipline. The management is inclined to condone these breaches and to put forward excuses for infringements of the labour code.

Kyzyl-Kiya miners are to increase their output in the Five-Year Plan by 57%. 50% of all operations at the mines are to go over to "cyclic" production, and during 1953 new cutting and loading machines are to be introduced. Early in January telegrams recording production feats were

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released for publication and the management was jubilant. All the troubles and difficulties of 1952, the end-of-the-month rush methods ("shturmovshchina"), night shifts and similar annoyances were believed over. But in February less enthusiastic reports ensued. Output at "No.4" and "4 bis" pits was obviously dropping owing mostly to the poor use of machinery. Not a single cutting machine had been in operation at these pits, the pick and shovel being still the implements most used.

As in Sulyukta, the Kyzyl-Kiya Trust had tried to impress upon "Sredazugol", its parent Trust, that in view of local conditions the mines could not profitably use modern coal machinery. Geological peculiarities, it was claimed, made the introduction of modern combines and the "cyclic" method impossible. So far no cutting machinery is in use and blasting is still preferred, although the latter causes delays in the clearing of coal since half of the loading machines at times remain idle.

There has been considerable improvement in living conditions at Kyzyl-Kiya. In 1952, 2,500 metres of domestic housing was handed over to prospective occupiers, that is, more than the total for the previous three years. According to other reports, by the end of 1952, thirty-six two-family houses had been erected of which six were to be handed over to war invalids and widows living at the mines. Building was being continued even in winter and in February this year work on 30 new houses was started.

Professional training is now well advanced since the Kyzyl-Kiya Mining Institute has already been in existence for 20 years. Kirgiz native students, however, remain backward in their training, especially in the study of Russian and mathematics. There are also complaints of the training being too theoretical, there being no auxiliary training workshops in this Institute.

Sulyukta

This is in the extreme south-western corner of Kirgizia and can be reached from Dragomirovo station by a narrow gauge line 40 kilometres long. The Sulyukta Trust controls four coal-bearing fields of brown coal with a calorific value of over 5,000. In 1905 production at Sulyukta reached 3,842 tons which grew to 13,000 by 1913. In 1925 one mine only was in operation, and the miners lived in temporary felt tents. Mechanisation at the "Sulyuktaugol" field is now well advanced, and the standard of organisation is high. Miners are imbued with a high sense of labour discipline and consequently raise their level of production every year.

One of the Sulyukta mines is mentioned as managed by a Kirgiz who nursed it back to life in 1948 when it was the most backward mine of the area.

The working of this pit has now greatly improved. It has electric locomotives, and the mechanisation of coal extraction had enabled the management to cut down its labour cadres by 200 men and at the same time increase production by 60%.

It was reported in January that the 1952 plan had been fulfilled by the Trust ahead of time and that by March 1st the miners of the first sector of Mines Nos. 2-8 and of the second sector of No. 9 had carried out their February plan. No. 9 had been lagging behind for a long time, but a radical improvement was achieved in January when planned tasks were exceeded for the first time. February showed still further improvement.

A "Donbas" Combine was recently installed at one of the Sulyukta mines and to work it the whole labour routine at the mine had to be changed, underground facilities improved, and a larger number of pit-props used and their bracing strengthened. Above all miners have had to be properly trained to operate this combine. Apart from these technical difficulties, it has also been necessary to overcome the negative attitude of a section of the miners who maintained that the coalfields of Central Asia, with their sagging seams and the consequent pressure on the roofs of the galleries, are unsuited for the use of the "Donbas" Combine. These initial protests have now been overcome and the "Donbas" put successfully into operation.

Mining conditions at Sulyukta are now considered favourable for the introduction of complex coal-mining machinery, of remote and automatic controls and similar advanced methods. The modernisation of mining methods at pits No. 4 and 2 - 8 has led to an appreciable increase in output, following which the numbers of rail tracks, passing places and electric locomotives have also had to be increased. The concentration of mechanical equipment at the mines demands an extension of technical control and a higher level of despatch work which is becoming of such vital importance to automatic operations. Last year, at No. 4 pit, a 73% output improvement followed the introduction of mechanisation, but it is thought that even this increase will be too small to meet the demand for a 43% increase in coal output in the fifth year of the Plan made on Kirgizia at the XIX Party Conference unless the whole potential of the mines is mobilised and mechanical cutting of coal introduced. This latter innovation is at present impossible, since pits Nos. 6 and 9 have not been prepared for the use of cutting machines.

Kok-Yangak

The two coal-fields of the Dzhalsalabad region are Kok-Yangak and Tashkumyr. Kok-Yangak is only 25 kilometres to the north-east of

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Dzhalalabad and produces good quality hard coal with a calorific value of about 6,000 - 6,500. Mine "39 bis" of this field produced over the half year 6,800 tons above its contracted plan. Mine "40" has also shown some improvement, said to be due to an intensification of Party work among the miners. "Kapitalnaya" mine is now working the new "cyclic" method of production, with a resulting rise in productivity of two and a half times. It has also cut nett costs by 5%. In spite of this achievement, there were complaints that this mine had failed in its planned deliveries both in July and August 1952 and that its labour discipline was low.

Further complaints were registered in March of the ineffective use of mechanical means at this field with the result that targets of planned output since the beginning of the year have not been fulfilled. An anti-mechanisation trend among miners is evident, and the level of technical supervision is low. Among improvements recorded at the mines is the introduction of daylight lamps at No. 40 mine. These lamps are eventually to be installed in all mines of this field.

The mining settlement of Kok-Yangak has grown considerably since 1951 and new blocks of houses are being continually added. The Kok-Yangak Trust approved the construction plans for the new Kok-Yangak settlement in 1951, since by then the growing population at the mines had outgrown accommodation facilities available at the old settlement. By the autumn of 1951, 1,200 square metres of domestic housing had been handed over to occupiers. In 1952, construction work was further extended and 98 detached houses put up on what was only recently waste land. Some miners have built their own private houses with loans and building materials provided by the Mining Trust. In 1952, loans to individual miners amounted to not less than 250,000 roubles.

Tashkumyr

The Tashkumyr field on the Naryn river is the most recent of the four Kirgizian fields. Its coal is of a "transition" type, but of good quality with a calorific value of over 6,000. Tashkumyr is a product of the Stalin Five-Year Plan. Only 25 years ago coal was transported from the fields on the backs of donkeys; it now claims to be a large and well laid out mining centre. During the past five years, ten thousand square metres of domestic housing, a hospital and a school have been added to cater for the needs of the growing mining population. One complaint about the work of this mine is that the miners tend to underestimate the importance of the work and leadership of their foremen. Consequently, Party cells are called upon to work for the strengthening of the authority of the foremen whose routine demands are to be strictly complied with. Conditions of work at this mine are now improving; its daily output is growing and coal trains are said to leave the station yards almost every two hours.

In conflict with these statements, however, it is declared that output actually decreased last year and that the Party organisation at the mine was to be blamed for this. The slackness of Party organisation was recently demonstrated when a former manager who had been guilty of exaggerating achievements and falsifying output figures was merely sent to a mining academy to brush up his knowledge instead of being severely punished.

Efforts are being made at the "Severnaya" mine to introduce further improvements, although it had already exceeded its planned output in 1952. There are, however, complaints that surveying operations at Tashkumyr have not been vigorously pursued, and for this the inadequate organisation of labour is blamed. Fully qualified and experienced miners are often moved from one pit to another, their locally acquired experience being thus wasted. Rush methods of work (shturmovshchina) are usually adopted at the end of each month to reach monthly production quotas. During these periods of feverish activity more miners are sent underground than necessary and this leads to confusion and a drop in the productivity of individuals. Rush methods can be avoided if primary communist cells are more active in maintaining an even tempo of work throughout the month.

All of the above four coalfields have the advantage of being linked by branch lines with the Fergana railway system. Other prospective fields do not have this advantage. The Dzhergalan field, for instance, in the Terski Ala-Tau east of Przhevalsk, which was prospected in 1928-1930, is 2,300 metres up and only accessible by rough tracks leading from the shores of Issyk Kul lake. Before extraction here can be developed, the roads leading to Przhevalsk and the lake ports must be improved. From there coal could be transhipped to Rybachye rail head and thence to the Chu valley where it is badly needed. At present the Dzhergalan fields are thinly populated; mining is primitive and is confined to catering for small-scale local needs.

Along the southern shores of the Issyk Kul there are also the Sogutinsk coalfields, providing a medium grade of coal. The development of this field would be of considerable importance since Frunze, the capital of the Republic, at present has to import its coal from some distance, and for coal to be brought from across the lake would mean a great economy. In this connection, there has been mention of a railway line skirting the Issyk Kul and thus connecting Rybachye direct with the Dzhergalan and Sogutinsk fields.

There is reference to a new field which is known to exist in the eastern sector of the Osh region. This is visualised as a future base for the development of metallurgy in the Republic. The deposit is alleged to contain hundred of millions of tons of coal, some of which has the high calorific value of 8,500. At present, however, this field is unworkable and will remain so until it can be linked by a permanent line with the existing southern railway system.

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TURKMENISTAN

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Oil

During the first quarter of 1953 press references to Turkmen oil were on the whole scarce and indirect. But they indicate general progress both in the volume of production and in the application of new drilling methods. All production increases are given in percentages rather than in actual volume.

The 1955 oil production targets announced at the Nineteenth Party Congress were enthusiastically received by the Turkmenneft workers, and reports of expansion are already being published. For instance, the 1952 State plan for the geological survey has been carried out three months ahead of schedule and the net cost cut by 8%. Great emphasis has been laid on the progress in drilling results since the introduction of the "Turbobur" which has increased the speed of boring from 200 - 300 metres in 1940 to 500 - 600 metres during 1952.

Soviet Initiative

References to the Nebit Dag oilfields are frequently accompanied by allusions to the short but eventful history of the Turkmen oil industry. Unsuccessful attempts at deep boring were first made by the management of the Trans-Caspian Railway in 1883-7. It is also affirmed that steps to study the mineral resources of Nebit Dag were made by British "interventionists" during the Civil War. Scientific prospecting was, however, not undertaken until the Soviet regime came into power. Even then there were many setbacks and the wells for a time produced nothing but water. Surveying might indeed have been abandoned but for the insistence of Academician Gubkin who maintained that Nebit Dag was not a limited area for production but part of a whole oil region. His estimates were proved correct during the war when the production of crude oil increased by 70% and that of refined spirit by six times.

Development since 1940

The increase of oil production in Turkmenistan has been far more

rapid than expected. During 1950 more oil was produced than planned under the Fifth Five-Year-Plan and 1951 and 1952 showed further increases. In fact, the amount of production in 1952 exceeded that of 1940 by four times. The future of the Turkmen oil industry is now considered to be bound up with the extension of existing fields by new borings. Of the boring operations planned for the near future, at least one third is to be carried out in entirely new areas. The lead in this expansion is being maintained by the workers of Kumdagneft and Chelekenneft.

Expansion of Nebit Dag

Nebit Dag is now recognised as the centre of the Turkmen oil industry. The rise of this town both as a production centre and as a city has been phenomenal. Fifteen years ago there were only ten or twelve wells in the "Twenty-six Baku Kommissars" field and the absence of roads made the transportation of oil an extremely hazardous operation. There was a shortage of water and of accommodation and an even greater dearth of oil technicians and specialists. By the end of 1950, however, the index for the average daily production of oil in the Nebit Dag field in comparison with before the war had reached 328, and that for the number of wells in operation to 428. As a result of this remarkable development, Nebit Dag rapidly assumed the status of a flourishing modern city. The Party, administrative and research organisations are concentrated in Nebit Dag itself, while the actual work of extraction is located at Vyshka, a settlement which is expanding further and further into the desert. Since 1950 not less than 80,000 square metres of domestic housing has been erected in Nebit Dag and the Dzhebel and Vyshka settlements, and five hundred families fully accommodated. The hospitals at Nebit Dag and Vyshka have been extended to include a dispensary and an isolation ward. The persistent water shortage has been overcome and eight new wells have recently been constructed. During 1953, it is hoped to dispense altogether with the necessity of bringing drinking water all the way from Kazandzhik. The supply of electric current has improved and in February the capacity of the existing Diesel power station was to be increased by 3,500 kilowatts. Gas has been laid on in over one thousand houses in Nebit Dag and Vyshka, and during 1953 it is intended to make the supply of gas universal. More than 1,500 radio receiving terminals have been installed in private flats.

Greater prosperity is increasing the purchasing power of Turkmenistan's oil workers. This is reflected in the greater turnover in local shops, whose sales in 1952 had increased by over six million roubles over those in 1951. Buying is particularly heavy during periods when long-service gratuities are paid out. The last distribution of these payments began on the 15th December and during a short period after that date three hundred radio receiving sets, four hundred clocks and watches, twenty-five motor cycles and ten pianos had been purchased.

The Turkmen Oil "Technicum" has recently been moved from Krasnovodsk to Nebit Dag and the courses held there are said to have caused a rise in the educational level of the local population. Another factor contributing to this rise is the arrival of large numbers of qualified workers from higher technical schools outside.

Kum Dag

Considerable expansion is also reported at Kum Dag which became an Oblast centre in 1952. Apart from spacious living quarters, Kum Dag now has a club, a cinema and a large school building; gas is laid on in most of the public buildings and is to be brought into use for domestic purposes shortly. Kum Dag boasts a magazine called the "Kum Dag Oilman", the first number of which appeared in February.

Complaints and Criticism

Criticism ranged over the proper employment of boring gangs, the use of the latest methods of oil exploitation, for instance, in the matter of "stratum pressure", and the encouragement given to workers by examining and applying their suggestions for the rationalisation of production processes. In the latter connection, it was maintained that of twenty-three such suggestions made during 1952, only three had been studied and approved. As a result of this, the flow of suggestions had dried up during the fourth quarter of the year. Nevertheless, in January 1953 oil workers had on their own initiative decided to raise the coefficient of well exploitation from "0.888 to 0.910", to resurrect two disused wells, to cut down by 10% the expenditure of materials used in production, and to introduce wherever possible the mechanisation of secondary processes and forms of labour organisation adopted at forward units of the oil industry. A specific complaint was directed by the Ashkhabad railway against the poor work of the supply department of the Turkmenneft Trust. Large quantities of freight addressed to the Trust are delayed in unloading with the result that wagons are held back over

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the time limit and large fines have to be paid to the railway. Such delays are quite unnecessary since the Trust sidings are well equipped with facilities for unloading. These include a twenty-five ton crane, two automatic cranes and other mechanical devices which are not being properly utilised.

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Shipping on the Amu Darya

Since work began at the head of the new Main Turkmen Canal at Takhia-Tash, the volume of freight carried on the Amu-Darya has greatly increased. This freight includes supplies not only for the canal works, but also for the labour employed on the project. In order to cater for the great increase in shipping, improvements are being carried out to piers, docks, wharves and other port installations at Khodzheili, Takhia-Tash, and Chardzhou. These improvements, although intended as a temporary measure, are likely to remain as a permanent contribution towards the betterment of shipping facilities on this important river artery. Since the increase in shipping is directly connected with the canal works, it has recently been decided that the Sredazgidrostoi, the organisation directly responsible for the work, should control and be responsible for the transportation of building materials. This organisation has in consequence taken over from the regular steamship line five tugs and ten barges as well as the Khodzheili ship repairing yard. New workshops are to be built at Khodzheili in order to undertake the servicing of the steamers on the lower reaches of the Amu-Darya connected with the canal project.

Development of River Ports

Work on the extension of port facilities at Khodzheili, Takhia-Tash and Chardzhou, the three ports most affected by the current increase in the volume of freight, is making good progress. Khodzheili is to be the main repair centre and metal-and wood-working machinery has been arriving there from many parts of the Union. The new workshops were to be opened in February, and personnel, including carpenters, turners and fitters, is being drafted into the town. Takhia-Tash is the main assembly centre. To improve facilities in this respect a yard for the assembly of barges, steamers and motor-vessels is being laid out along the banks of the new feeder canal. In this yard it is planned to assemble during 1953 twelve paddle-steamers and twenty-five barges. Sections of nine barges have already arrived and work has begun on the assembly of two of them. Two cranes of fifteen tons' lifting capacity have already been installed and ten pontoon cranes are shortly expected. The existing six welding units are to be increased to thirty in the near future. From details given about the movements of rolling stock, it is clear that the railway branch line laid from Gidrouzel station to the wharves is already in operation. Work at the wharves is under the supervision of specialists from the Kiev ship-building combine.

Docking facilities and Training of Dockers

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The position of Chardzhou at the junction of the Ashkhabad and the Amu-Darya river system has greatly enhanced its importance. It has in fact become the largest transshipment centre used by the builders of the Main Turkmen Canal. A continuous stream of freight is reported to be moving towards Chardzhou both day and night, and this requires a great increase in docking capacity and in the mechanisation of loading and unloading arrangements. Since 1950 forty million roubles have been invested for this purpose and railway and port facilities have been improved to a marked degree. Mention has been made of a new railway station and of a bridge over the railway line. Special mention has been made of the port of Krasnovodsk as a training centre for dockers. Training courses held there include all forms of port duties such as those of stevedores, works superintendents, mechanics and warehousemen. It is believed that these courses will greatly improve the standard of work, especially at smaller ports such as Kerki, Sharluk, Shabbaz, Turtkul and Gurlen.

Supply of New Vessels

During 1953 a total of thirty steamers and barges is expected to arrive from Kiev and four motor vessels from Moscow shipbuilders. The Leninskaya Kuznitsa works of Kiev recently despatched to the canal zone seventy railway trucks with sections of barges which, on being assembled, will have a higher carrying capacity than any so far used on the Amu-Darya. On January 10th, it was reported from Takhia-Tash, that the first barges sent by rail had arrived.

The performance of a number of vessels of different kinds has been singled out for praise or criticism. Among those favourably mentioned are the tugs Papanin, Pushkin, Smidovich, Andreev, and Komsomoletz and the motor vessels Byelinski, Goncharov, Herzen, Nekrasov. On the Kara Tau-Takhia-Tash run, the steamers Lenin and General Vatutin are reported to be working efficiently. On the other hand, however, the captain and engineer of the steamer Kuibyshev are said to have failed in their duties in the matter of political educational work among their crew, with the result that during the first half of 1952 forty members of the crew had to be dismissed.

Shortcomings

Shortcomings in shipping on the Amu-Darys have been widely admitted. During 1952, the amount of freight handled fell far short of requirements and of the planned targets. During the first quarter, only 20% of

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planned freight deliveries had been carried out; this was attributed to delays in beginning shipment in the navigation season. During the second quarter of the year there was no improvement and the target was only carried out to the extent of 17%. At the beginning of 1953 it was again stated that shipments had begun too late in the navigation season. It is estimated that the plan for 1952 was only executed up to 70% in tonnage and 74.5% in ton-kilometres. As a result, the shipping services failed to deliver to many districts thousands of tons of freight urgently needed for the fulfilment of State plans. Many ships remained idle for long periods and this resulted not only in a loss of freight carriage, but also in the administration having to pay demurrage fees of over half a million roubles. An even larger sum was paid out in compensation to shippers for losses on account of shortages in delivery caused by rough handling or pilfering. It is also alleged that crews have been too hurriedly mustered and that shipping managers did little to promote a higher standard of amenities. Several ships changed their entire crews not less than five times during last year.

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Railways

In September 1952, Shayakhmetov, the Secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party, outlined the general plan and prospects for the development of Kazakh railways. Apart from some general recommendations for the fuller use of the reserves of existing railways and their capacity, and for stricter adherence to the rules of the safe running of trains, he gave an assurance that during 1953 the Mointy-Chu line and the Akmolinsk-Pavlodar section of the South Siberian railway would be completed and begin to operate regularly. He also mentioned that in 1953 it was planned to start work on the building of the Kungrad-Makat and Guryev-Astrakhan lines and to lay a second track on the Akmolinsk-Kartaly line.

Turksib

During the autumn of 1952, considerable publicity was given by the Press to a campaign for the haulage by single locomotives of heavier freight trains. This campaign is in operation in other parts of the Union (see Uzbekistan: Railways) and is primarily designed as an economy measure.

On the Turksib, the campaign appears to have been initiated in 1952 by the locomotive "brigades" of the Matai section, who achieved the movement of 3,500 trains of which both the load and the speed were above the average. This resulted in the transportation of 2,466,000 tons of freight in excess of planned targets, and continued success on these lines would have resulted in a partial liquidation of arrears in the carrying out of State plans, and also in considerable economy.

Later reports, however, indicated a slackening of the campaign owing partly to severe winter conditions, but also to the unco-operative attitude of the management, who appeared to think that the use of fewer engines would prejudice the effect of their periodical reports, these being based not on ton-kilometre achievements but on locomotive-kilometres. (It has, incidentally, been suggested that even achievements

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on this basis were unsatisfactory, since not a single engine driver had so far reached the 500 kilometre daily target).

The management's programme for the movement of heavier trains was limited to two trains daily, one from Semipalatinsk to Tyulkubas, and the other from Alma Ata to Semipalatinsk. Even this was not fully carried out and, in effect, during December only 3 heavy trains were moved in the Zashchitnaya, 23 in the Ayaguz and 27 in the Dzhambul sections. Drivers were obstructed by various means such as frequent stops at station signal points designed to curtail their speed.

This slowing-down of the campaign is deplored by the press, particularly since an announcement that, during 1952, 10,000 heavy trains had been moved over the Turksib held great promise for the future.

Accusations made by locomotive "brigades" of the unco-operative attitude of the management appear to have taken effect, and it is now accepted that the campaign will not succeed without the full co-operation of all departments of the railway. Accordingly, the whole matter has been submitted to a special meeting of engineers and a committee appointed to study the various aspects of the campaign and to adopt practical steps for its furtherance.

During the first quarter of 1953, some improvement was reported, particularly in the Chu-Lugovaya section. The number of heavy trains moved on this section rose from 165 in January to 243 in February, and to 334 in the first 24 days of March. During March, 102 more drivers joined in the campaign and another 12 locomotives were released for other duties.

It is, however, believed that there will be further setbacks in the spring. The track is in poor condition after the winter, and warnings have been issued for the reduction of speed over sections not yet properly repaired.

Large funds have been allotted for the provision of amenities for the railway staff. Rest-houses have been opened at Lugovaya, Kos-Kuduk, Osh-Tobe and Ak Togai stations. Fifteen eight-flat blocks are being constructed at such places as Ayaguz, Matai and Dzhambul. During 1953, the Turksib railway is to have an additional thirteen thousand square metres of domestic housing. Considerable progress has been made in the building of schools for the children of railway employees. There are already 104 schools at important junctions and the larger stations, and these accommodate 43,000 children. New

schools are now being built at Sary Osek, Ayaguz, Zashchitnaya and Kos-Kuduk. The network of trading centres and shops along the line of the Turksib is being greatly extended.

The Akmolinsk-Pavlodar line

Hitherto this district has only been served by a narrow-gauge railway from the Irtysh River to Ekibastuz, which before the Revolution transported coal sold to river steamship companies. The completion of the new trunk-line will open up the great mineral resources of the district. Much progress was made during 1952 including a successful attack on the Eremen Tau range, the building of the bridge over the Irtysh River and the building of a number of railway settlements. In February 1952, railway gang trains were already running and towards the end of the year the railway was opened for limited seasonal use. This year's plan includes an extensive building programme for settlements and stations, particularly those at Pavlodar, Ekibastuz and Eremen Tau.

Mointy-Chu line

The 6th Kazakhstan Communist Party Congress stipulated that this line should be open for traffic in 1953. So far, however, movement is limited to freight and local passenger trains. When the line is running to full capacity long distance trains connecting Sverdlovsk and Alma Ata and Sverdlovsk and Tashkent will pass over the Mointy-Chu section, which will thus provide an additional and shorter link between Central Asia and the Urals. Secondary ballasting has now been done along much of the line and most of the stations have been handed over to the permanent management. The 1952 plan for the erection of domestic housing has been completed and power stations have been built at Myn Aral and Khan Tau.

Guryev-Makat-Kandagach line

There have been some references to the development of the busy station of Shubar Kuduk on the Guryev-Kandagach line. Mention is made of two-storey houses with water and electric light supply and of other amenities such as a radio-diffusion station. This remote locality is now connected with the cultural and industrial centres of the Union and is only twelve hours distant by rail from the oil town of Guryev.

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This branch line is used for the transportation of saksaul from production districts and is well provided with trucks and locomotives. There are however complaints of inefficiency; three trains could be loaded to the main line and brought down at one time with about 600 tons of saksaul fuel but loads are usually limited to 300 tons only. There had consequently been an accumulation of stocks which will not be moved for some time to come. A fuller use by the Ministry of Local Fuels of the existing transport means of this line is therefore strongly recommended.

PUBLIC WORKS

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Urban Development

Reports on the development of cities and generally on municipal matters include statements that plans for new municipal construction have been formulated and that funds are available for the development among others of the cities of Kzyl-Orda, Taldy Kurgan, Dzhambul, Uralsk, Petropavlovsk and Semipalatinsk. Houses containing eight flats each are to be built in Kzyl-Orda, Kustanai and Akmolinsk, an hotel accommodating one hundred guests at Kzyl-Orda as well as public baths in Atbasar, Turkestan, and in the Lozovskoi and Irtysh districts of the Pavlodar region. Power stations are to be opened at Kzyl-Orda and Taldy Kurgan. Existing watermains are to be extended and new ones laid in Aktyubinsk, Semipalatinsk, Petropavlovsk and Chimkent. The sewerage system at Petropavlovsk is to be extended.

Alma Ata

The extent and tempo of construction of dwelling houses and municipal buildings is to be increased in the current year. Among factory and work-shop buildings to be constructed are engineering works, an enamelware factory, a chemical cleaning plant and a furniture factory. New water and sewage mains are to be installed. About two million roubles are to be invested in the development of electric power and a new hydroelectric plant is to come into being. According to Epikterov, Minister of Municipal Affairs in Kazakhstan, 13 houses with eight flats in each are to be erected this year in Alma Ata; a trolley-bus depot is to be completed, and a number of new trolley-buses and electric trains are to be made available for the population. In the western sector of Alma Ata public baths to accommodate a hundred users at a time are to be built.

In the past two years a total of 230 million roubles has been spent on construction, 88 million having been spent on domestic housing. In the current year, 180 million roubles have been earmarked for building. New public buildings are to include three technical colleges, a teachers' institute for women and two cinemas. 49,000 square metres of domestic housing is to be built this year.

Balkhash

Balkhash municipal planners are busy with extension schemes. Twenty million roubles were assigned for the development of this key city during 1952 and this amount has now been increased to 28 million.

Dzhambul

This regional centre is expanding. During the first years of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, two seven-year schools and two middle schools, five shops and 100 dwelling houses were completed. Work on the construction of a new building to accommodate a veterinary technical institute has been started. The area occupied by the old city has grown rapidly and has now reached the station buildings and the Sugar and Superphosphate Works. Five and a half thousand square metres of streets have been asphalted. The central part of the city and Pushkin Street have been macadamised and the Abai and Kaganovidch Streets paved. A new House of the Soviets is to be erected in the centre of the city, and public baths and other municipal and dwelling houses are to be built. Many citizens will at last be able to move into modern flats.

Guryev

Still greater prosperity is confidently predicted for the oil and fishing town of Guryev. The town is divided into two parts by the Ural river, and its administrative, regional and city buildings, most of its schools, its regional library, a teachers' college, hospital and shopping district are on the right bank of the river. The local branch of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences and the river and sea port installations are also on the right bank. Industrial Guryev is on the left bank and is connected with Guryev proper by a bridge. This is the site of the new town, which incorporates the Petrovskii Engineering Works, the workshops of the Guryev section of the railway, the Meat and Fish Combine, and the power station. The industries of Guryev are expanding and the city is continuously growing. A railway terminus is to be built shortly as well as a House of the Soviets, new bridges across the river and further port installations. The banks of the river are to be strengthened by concrete work. To avoid haphazard development, a general plan of urban construction projects is to be worked out. Under the new Five-Year Plan, a new railway will connect Guryev with Astrakhan. An afforestation belt passes near Guryev and will add to the amenities of the city.

Eremen Tau

Eremen Tau is one of the most recent settlements of Kazakhstan. It is so recent that what is known as "Old Eremen Tau" will shortly celebrate its fifth anniversary. A typical mushroom settlement so far, it is destined for rapid development since it is on the new Akmolinsk-Pavlodar section of the South Siberian Railway and constitutes an important stage on this route. During the last two and a half years much has been done to improve the settlement's living conditions and it now has a "ten-year" school, as well as a boarding school for children of the railwaymen liv-

ing in temporary hutments at small stations along the line. It has a "House of Culture" which in its architecture is believed to surpass all other similar buildings in the Akmolinsk region. Difficulties in building and in constructing the permanent railway track in the Eremen Tau district are mostly due to the rocky nature of its soil which necessitates blasting.

Leninogorsk

A February report shows that this town is rapidly growing and especially its suburbs. Last year 12,000 square metres of living and dwelling space were added to accommodate workers in its mining suburb.

Kulsary

Natural gas is now used for the heating of buildings in this oil town. It is also used in the brick kilns and the "Engineering Base Workshop". Kulsary is thus the second settlement of the Emba oil fields to be supplied with gas, the first having been Kashkara. Since oil was first discovered at Kulsary at the beginning of the Third Five-Year Plan, this settlement has rapidly developed. During the past two years over 40 houses have been erected. Considerable efforts are being made to provide additional amenities for the population, and a park is being laid out - a considerable achievement in view of local soil conditions.

Tas Buget

Work on the construction of the Kzyl-Orda dam brought this settlement into being to accommodate workers. Although not yet to be found on any map, it has two schools, a club, a library and a stadium.

Karaganda District

During January, "Saranstroi", the Saran local Building Trust, handed over for occupation 4,510 square metres of domestic housing. Buildings comprising 12 and 24 flats have been completed, and 53 families of miners have moved in from colliery No. 101. At Fedorovka six houses for miners working the open cuttings have been newly occupied. In Novy Maikuduk two houses of eight flats each have been completed for men working at No. 35 colliery, which supplies coking coal to the Magnitogorsk metallurgical works. A tram-line now connects Maikuduk with Karaganda. At Maikuduk settlement, a hospital and an hotel to accommodate one hundred guests have also been completed.

Ekibastuz

The new railway settlement of Ekibastuz only came into being after the last local elections, but it is already one of the busiest settlements of the Irtysh region. Recently, two eight-flat and 15 two-flat apartment houses have been erected. Passenger trains arrive at this station daily, as well as freight trains for the new construction site.

Tekeli

This is one of the newest cities of Kazakhstan. Last year a mechanized bakery, an hotel, a stadium, 27 large houses, a crèche to release more mothers for work, and a new middle school were added to its amenities. In 1953 the scope of construction is to be extended.

Dzhezkazgan

The construction Trust of the Kazakh Copper Industries is responsible for the implementing of building projects at Dzhezkazgan, a new industrial centre of Kazakhstan. This Trust, in spite of an abundance of labour facilities and mechanical equipment and an efficient supply base, is not working according to plan, and the projected 13,000 additional square metres of domestic housing have not been completed. A hospital building, the Vesovaya station building and the main administrative premises of Dzhezkazgan have been under construction for five years but are still incomplete. Not a single square metre of road surface has been asphalted for the past five years. The slow tempo of work of this Trust has resulted in a considerable increase in building costs and its operational losses for 1952 alone were seven million roubles. Only 50 - 60% of whitewashing, painting and stucco work is mechanized and only 80% of excavation work. A quarter of the available cranes belonging to the Trust are not in use and materials are often carried to upper floors by hand. Bulldozers, scrapers, etc. are only partially utilised. Costs of materials are high and the cost of 1,000 bricks exceeds estimates by 46 roubles. The stock-accounting methods of the Trust are crude and the value of unused stocks in store runs to millions of roubles. Buildings supposed to be finally completed are handed over for occupation in poor condition. Even the "fine" houses in the Sadovaya Street of Dzhezkazgan have been left unfinished. Access to them from the street is still blocked as approaches have not been built, and the streets have been dug up on both sides for water-mains and sewage trenches. These houses have no water supply or drainage.

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The Academy of Sciences

The Kazakh Academy of Sciences was created six years ago and has now become the established cultural centre of the republic; it exercises considerable influence on the development of science, literature and political thought. It comprises twenty institutes and a number of independent scientific research centres supplied with up-to-date scientific equipment. Since the foundation of the Academy four hundred and sixty persons have obtained their degrees, and by 1953 the Academy contained eight hundred associates.

The main task of the Academy is that of assisting the great current projects of the Soviet regime. Particular attention, for instance, is paid to the Volga-Ural Canal and to problems relating to the exploitation for agricultural purposes of the northern Caspian regions where an expedition initiated by the Academy is at present at work. Other Academy specialists are at work in Southern Kazakhstan on problems of hydro-electric resources. The Academy is also actively interested in the recent move to introduce universal polytechnic education into middle schools.

A relatively new feature in the activities of the Academy is the plan to achieve a closer connection between scientists of the Academy and the experimental staff working in production, transport etc. To assist this movement the Scientific Council of the Academy has recently co-opted the chief engineer of the Alma Ata Heavy Machinery Works and the chief agronomist of the Alma Ata M.T.S. Similarly the Mining Institute of the Academy has established regular contact with engineering and technical personnel in Dzhezkazgan. This is with the object of accelerating the introduction of new scientific methods and inventions worked out by members of the Academy and of making a better study of all resources in industries with a view to increasing productivity.

While progress on the practical scientific side is generally considered to be satisfactory, the Institute of History, Ethnography and Archaeology comes in for a great deal of Press criticism. This institute is intended to take the lead in the initiation of the study of Kazakhstan's past. The main task of the Institute is to concentrate its research activities on the history of the Kazakh S.S.R. and to carry out a relentless war against all manifestations of bourgeois ideology in historical research. The Central Committee of the Kazakh Communist Party has issued a clear directive on this subject emphasizing the need to combat all attempts to falsify history or undermine the Kazakh people's friendship with the

Great Russian people. The directive attached particular importance to the study of the nationalist movements in Kazakhstan in the 18th and 19th centuries and emphasized the need to differentiate more clearly between popular and reactionary feudal-monarchical movements.

In spite of this directive, during the past two years not a single scientific paper has been published by the Institute which devoted sufficient weight to these fundamental questions. There has been no research into the penetration of capitalism into pre-revolutionary Kazakhstan, or the revolutionary movement which followed. The foundation and evolution of a "Kazakh Socialist Nation" has apparently been ignored, and in the past there has been a non-Marxist approach to the question whether the incorporation of Kazakhstan with the Russian Empire was a progressive event. Some members of the Institute have displayed a tendency to claim as a popular liberation movement the reactionary feudal-monarchical movement of Kenesary Kasimov (1837 - 1847).

A notable shortcoming in the routine work of the Institute is the absence of discussion of historical subjects before the publication of papers. Such discussion might have eliminated the faulty approach in such works as Kabirov's treatise on "The Migration of the Ili Uigurs" which praised the feudal Khanate and failed to disclose the imperialist policy of the British colonisers of the last century, who aimed at the subjugation of Eastern Turkestan. This book has now been withdrawn and is to be rewritten in the light of the criticisms made after its first publication. Another historian, T. Shoinbaev, is criticised for representing the 1857 insurrection in the Syr Darya region as a national liberation movement and for idealising its leader, Nurmuhamedov. The latter was in reality a typical representative of the reactionary feudal aristocracy; his movement was directed against Russia and thus tended to damage Kazakh-Russian friendship.

Some information is available about the first volume of the history of the Kazakh S.S.R. which is now ready for publication. This history includes the pre-revolutionary period and pays particular attention to the progressive results which followed the incorporation of Kazakhstan into the Russian Empire and to the historical origins of the friendship between the Russian and the Kazakh peoples. Stress is laid upon the "voluntary attachment" of Kazakhstan to Russia, a process resisted by Kazakh sultans and khans who did all in their power to estrange the two peoples. The history emphasizes the beneficial influence of Russia's advanced economy and culture on the social relations and culture of the Kazakh people, and gives great prominence to the growth of the revolutionary movement in Kazakhstan under the influence of the Russian working class. The history is divided up into definite historical periods in line with Marxist teaching.

The archaeological department of the Institute has been active in research in the Mangashlyk area, the Ust Urt plateau and the western shores of the Aral Sea, principally along the ancient caravan routes from Khorezm into the Ural-Volga area. The examples of art and architecture relating to the second half of the 19th century (sič), including tombstones and decorative motifs, have been studied together with earlier relics of the 17th and 18th centuries. It is expected that the results of this work will provide material for the further development of a national architecture. Here too, however, there have been serious aberrations: Professor Margullan was criticised for the errors contained in his dissertation on the epic inheritance of the Kazakh past. This, it was alleged, had been written from the bourgeois cosmopolitan angle of the Vesselovsky school.

The Institute of Literature and Language has been subjected to some criticism for its stubborn "Marxism", and the Director, Ishakov, has been warned that unless he completely reorganises the work of his Institute in line with the teaching of Stalin's linguistics, he will be held personally responsible. There was also criticism of the work of the Dungan-Uigur department of this Institute, which has been improved accordingly. The work of the department has been extended and qualified specialists have been brought from Moscow. As a result of these increased activities the compilation of an Uigur-Russian and Russian-Uigur dictionary is nearly complete.

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Literature

Considerable attention has recently been paid to the subject of literature. Comments have principally referred to the production and sales of political literature and to modern trends in criticism of both the classical and Soviet writers of Kazakhstan.

Political literature is being published in larger and larger quantities. Lenin's work first began to be published in the Kazakh language in 1923 and since then the printing and circulation of his works have been growing. Nineteen volumes have now been published and the circulation has reached two million copies. The translation has been done by the Kazakh department of the Institute of Marx, Engels and Lenin. Book sales in rural districts during 1942 fell short of anticipation. It was expected that one million's roubles worth of books would be sold, but in fact sales have not amounted to as much as half a million roubles. This falling off is attributed to the inferior selection of books sent to rural areas. It has been announced that as from January 1953 that the Kazakhstan Almanac is to become a monthly magazine.

A great deal of fault has been found in the tone of criticism and comment on the Kazakh classics. Existing commentaries on the work of the Kazakh poet Dzhambul have been found to be mistaken and tendentious. The current editions of his works are now considered to be spurious and to contain many bourgeois nationalist interpolations and falsifications. Some of the songs included in these editions could not have been composed by Dzhambul as they praise the greatest enemies of the Kazakh people. The 1946 Russian edition of Dzhambul's works has an introduction in which an attempt is made to draw an erroneous literary parallel between Dzhambul and Mayakovsky, and also between Dzhambul and Gorki. The same edition maintains that Dzhambul's personality and ideas were purely intuitive and had little to do with class-consciousness. The 1946 Kazakh edition is scarcely better: the commentary on individual poems contained favourable references to such obnoxious characters as Ablai Khan, Kenesary and Shortambai.

There have been many complaints of the low level of literary criticism of contemporary and recent writing. Such criticism is often coloured by considerations of friendship rather than objectivity; particular faults noted were the tendency to idealise certain reactionary Khans and their court poets, and to undervalue the great progressive significance

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of the incorporation of Kazakhstan into the Russian Empire and the importance of the sacred friendship between the Kazakh and the Russian peoples. In a new edition of his novel Abai, Auezov has continued to idealise the feudal system of the past, and to minimise the class contradictions which existed in the pre-revolutionary "aul".

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